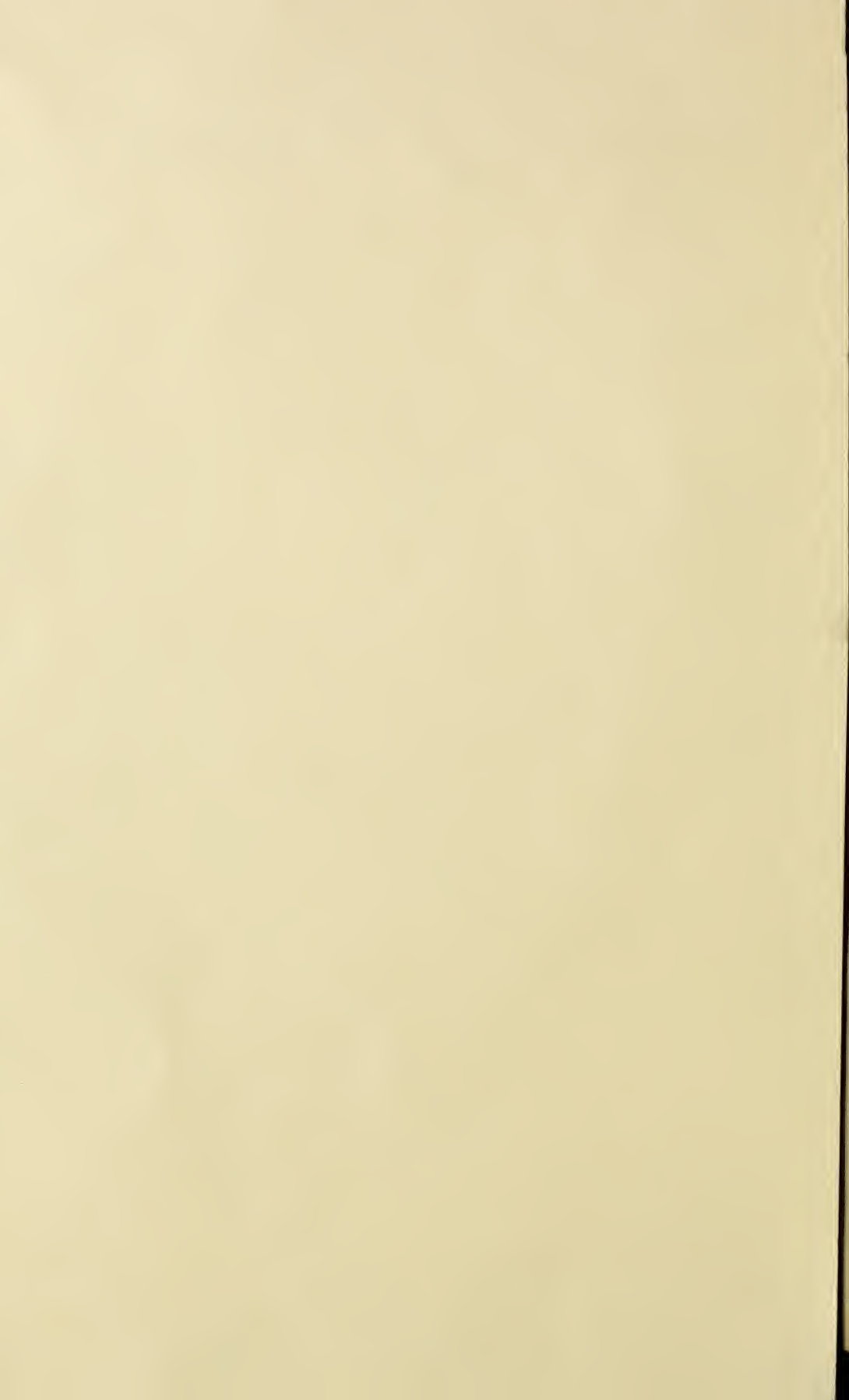


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THE MARYLAND FARMER:

DEVOTED TO

Agriculture, Horticulture, and Rural Economy.

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LIVE STOCK RAISING.

As one of the sources of a farmer's wealth, stock-raising seems to have been in the past lost sight of, for the more speculative crops of cotton and tobacco, in the Middle and Southern States, and perhaps it was a system far more remunerative when slave labor prevailed; but at the present time the same indifference towards it seems unaccountable. Labor is scarce and high, land is low in price, yet those who have much land and but little means to secure the sufficiency of labor to cultivate their broad acres, neglect to rear the various kinds of stock, and year after year see their fields run to waste, and grow up in bushes and briars, for the want of being cultivated or grazed. Wool, beef, mutton, butter and cheese, are all consumed in great quantities, and command high prices.—Wool is *imported* in large quantities, and less cheese is exported than is imported, yet comparatively we rear less stock in the region known as the Slave States than formerly. There is not on the habitable globe a region of the same extent so peculiarly adapted—by reason of climate, water, soil, amount of natural and cultivated grasses, and the ease with which they are grown, the absence of snows, and the long duration of the grass crop—as the Middle, Border and Southern States for the breeding, feeding, and full development of all the different kinds of domestic animals that man employs for his food, clothing, comforts and pleasures. Notwithstanding all the inducements to enlist the pecuniary interest, aided by these natural advantages, this great and important adjunct, and almost inseparable support to successful agriculture, not only neglected and discarded, but apparently unthought of and despised. "It is so much easier to buy a horse or a cow, than to run the risk and go to the expense and trouble to raise one," is often said, and another will say, "my pork costs more

than I can buy it for." One won't raise sheep for fear of the dogs, and another will not breed cattle in dread of the cattle plague, and so it is, with too many farmers who neglect to make great quantities of home-made manure because it is *cheaper* and *easier* to buy a few tons of concentrated fertilizers, which, after they do buy, they abuse, because they do not make the crops without cultivation. Now why is this? To what is it attributable? Must we speak out, and say that it is mainly owing to indolence, in connection with an ignorance of their own true wants, and of that knowledge which would teach them how economically to get the largest possible return for the capital they invest in land and labor, which fails to be profitable.

How many are there who sell their wheat to buy the pork which could have been raised at home on what was thrown away or lost during the year.—The shattered grain, the slops, the fruits that rotted, &c. Every cow ought to keep a pig upon the sour milk alone. The calf which is sold for \$6 if kept over with only the expense of grass, and fodder, at three years old would bring \$30, an interest of 400 per cent. for three years, or 133½ per cent. per annum.

By failing to expend \$40 per year in rearing a fine colt worth \$200, a loss to that amount would be sustained, in addition to the purchase of a horse of like value, which would be \$180 saved or lost each year by not raising one colt. Multiply this sum by five, (the number which any farm might easily on an average raise,) and we find the sum of \$900. These are calculations based on breeding ordinary stock, but these gains would be trebled if improved breeds were substituted for common.—We knew a man who bought a mare for \$75, and in four years she had four colts, when he sold the lot, clearing every expense, (for the colts never had

grain,) and netting \$450, besides the almost daily work of the mare the whole time, which certainly paid for the expense of keep of mare and colts.—Suppose she had been bred to a Walter's Percheron or a high bred horse, and is it to be doubted that his profits would have been \$1,000? Facts and figures are stubborn things, and farmers should ascertain the first, and then familiarize themselves with the last. In this way they would convince themselves of the correctness of our views.

It may be said that a superior male animal cannot be had for use except at a great distance, and large expense. That is unfortunately too often the case, but it is just in that particular that our people err so to their pecuniary detriment. It is the positive evidence of want of energy and enterprise, and confidence in one another. Why cannot small stock associations in a neighborhood be formed for mutual profit and public good? Say a horse of superior qualities for farm purposes is to be bought, and his cost will be \$2,000; let shares of \$40 each be taken by 50 persons, and he is paid for.—During the year the horse will pay for himself at the rate of a share per mare, which for such a horse would be a small sum, especially with the right to return the mare until there was a produce. The second year the horse would prove a very decidedly profitable speculation. Let this be done with other animals and the runts, scallwags and old fielders would soon disappear, and every man would be a rival of his neighbor in the effort to produce the best; each would take a deeper interest in this branch of his farming operations—the stock of all sorts would be improved, and the aggregated as well as individual wealth of the district be astonishingly increased. At every change or substitution of the animal by another, whether bull, horse, ram or boar, a *superior* one would be purchased by the company, and thus, instead of deterioration, there would be a steady improvement, and of course a corresponding result in profits.

We venture the assertion that ten times the amount of stock could be reared in the section of country, to which we intend our remarks particularly to apply, than is now done, and it could be done without lessening one iota the acreage production of any single crop, or decreasing the aggregate value of the tillage crops. The decrease of the live stock in this section in the last decade has been great, although that may be somewhat accounted for by the disastrous waste and destruction incident to the war, yet its present condition is simply ridiculous. The live stock as a whole are as primitive and anti-diluvian in appearance as ever they were in the days of the Colonists, when we compare them with the live stock of certain por-

tions of the country, such as the blue grass region of Kentucky, and the grazing grounds along the Genessee, Mohawk and Hudson rivers of New York. Again, the numbers of even such kinds as we find, are contemptibly small. Take for instance the county of Prince George's, Md., with, according to the census of 1870, 125,045 acres of improved land, and 63,666 acres of woodland, besides all its 16,547 acres of unimproved land, having only 4,906 sheep—less than 5,000 sheep! with Baltimore, Washington and Annapolis touching her borders, the first named city slaughtering 1,000 sheep or more, we believe, per day. This county alone could carry, without interfering with other stock or crops, if properly arranged, from 40 to 50,000 sheep, to the great improvement of her 73,000 acres of woodland and unimproved acres.

In regard to *horses*, this county does not rear one-third the horses she has to use—and large sums of money go out of its borders for horses, by which the industry of her neighbors is rewarded, yet her people grow poorer in the midst of the means of more than a supply of this source of drain on her resources. She owns 3,434 horses, which is about one horse for every *sixty* acres within her limits.—Surely Prince George's county, yielding a total (estimated value) of all farm productions yearly of \$1,340,947, can afford to keep more than one horse for every sixty acres. Supposed there were raised yearly one horse for every thirty acres; then there would annually be added 6,000 horses, worth say, \$150 each, which would be \$900,000 to add to her production, making it \$2,250,000, instead of a fraction over \$1,300,000. By these figures, which we say are maintainable, we see a loss to this one county, in not raising more live stock, of twice the amount received from all sources.

We are rejoiced to see the whole Southern Press alive to the importance of this subject, and able articles appear daily, urging our people to be independent and grow their own meat, animal power, their own breadstuffs, manufacture their own clothing, make at home their shoes, agricultural machinery and fertilizers, so as not to be compelled to rely upon other States for these necessities of life. This system would be the true, wholesome, life-giving and life-sustaining *reconstruction* so much talked of. The *Live Stock Journal*, and others who look at this question with a selfish motive and contracted vision, may scoff at the idea of the South being a stock breeding country, but they can scarce name more famous racers than those bred up in the South, or a region where cattle grow larger, or increase in numbers faster than on the savannas of Texas, where they receive no more fostering care of man than do the deer, the wild moose, or the

mountain goat, living only on what Nature yields them in the grass of the vallies and fields, and the herbage of the forests. But little shelter is needed by cattle and sheep, even in the severest winters of the Middle and Southern States south of Mason & Dixon's Line. The fastest horses, the largest cattle and the heaviest sheep that have been produced in this country, with few exceptions, have been the denizens and native to the Kentucky blue grass region, Virginia vallies and the Delaware farms. Marylanders, in times past, with cattle of the different improved breeds, bred by them, have successfully competed with the cattle of like breeds at their own cattle shows, in the very heart of the northern cattle region. But alas! the Southern men have given it up, and the indefatigable North has persisted, until now her Short Horns beat all England, the very mother of that and all the other nobler classes of the bovine race.

This subject is deemed by us so important that we may, and probably will, resume its consideration more in detail as to the kinds of stock we deem most suitable to the different sections, and our reasons for such opinions. In the meantime we do not desire to be understood that we expect or would advocate that every one should rush into breeding live stock of all sorts; we are only attempting to show that ten times the amount can be raised without decreasing the yield of the cereals, or curtailing the great staple crops of tobacco and cotton.

MORE ABOUT FORAGE—CURING CLOVER HAY.

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer:

An excellent substitute for hay is the weed vulgarly called smart-weed (*P. Persicaria*), generally found on cultivated meadow lands, harvested when the flowers begin to fade, or about the 20th of September. My horses eat it greedily; mules and sheep also. Horn cattle refuse it. I intend curing several tons this season. With this little scrap I send you a sample of said weed, to test the truthfulness of my assertion, by offering the sample to the horses and mules constantly passing your sanctum.

The following article I find in my scrap book from a correspondent of the *Journal of the Farm*:

CURING CLOVER HAY WITH STRAW.

I am now feeding clover hay put into the mow last summer about half cured. About one foot thick of clover spread evenly over the mow, then the same amount of straw; again clover alternating with straw. Putting several loads in this manner, it comes nearly as green as fresh cut grass or clover, perfectly free from dust or smoke. All stock eat it with great avidity, milch cows doing splendidly upon it, eating the straw nearly as well as the clover. I think juices of the clover are to a certain extent absorbed by the straw, making

the straw nearly as good as the clover, and preventing the latter from heating, and preserving its color and sweetness.

In bygone days planters considered wheat straw valueless. It is valuable for mixing with clover, as above stated, littering stock, to act as an absorbent, adding to the bulk and richness of the dung pile, serving a valuable purpose for mulching, stuffing mattresses, cutting up and mixing with mill feed, and a dozen other uses that could be named.

CURING CLOVER HAY.

To cure clover hay thoroughly requires time and care. If cut by machine it ought to lay several hours. If the crop is below an average, tedding will not be necessary; simply put it in winrow; by which process the hay will be sufficiently stirred. In the afternoon or next forenoon cock up. Open out the cocks next forenoon for the purpose of preventing excessive fermentation and admitting heat and air. Repeat the process of cocking, and opening out. After laying open about two hours, weather being favorable, the hay may be stacked safely or carted to the mow.—The object of cocking and re-cocking is to prevent the admission of excessive light and heat, and to preserve the color and sweetness of the hay.

The September number of the "Maryland Farmer," as regards interest, stands first in my estimation to any previous number of the volume. The several interesting papers contained therein, I feel quite inclined to comment upon, but fear you would throw into me such a scathing John Randolph rebuke, that I would scarcely recover from the shock during my natural life.

FLOWMAN.

How to Have Good Lawns.

We are glad to see so much increased attention paid to the lawns in this and portions of the adjoining counties. The residents branching out from our large city are clearly acquiring a good taste as it regards the appearance of their premises. A good lawn which will last for many years, should be prepared as follows: In the first place the ground must be well broken up for the seed by deep plowing, careful pulverization and heavy manuring.—Sow plentifully of the following seeds mixed in equal proportions: rye-grass, blue-grass and white clover, then rake the seed in, and harrowing will be unnecessary. If the seed is sown just before a rain it will be a great advantage. Commence mowing the young grass when three or four inches high, not too closely, and continue to do so with a machine cutter every eight or ten days. *Every other year* top-dress in autumn with a good coat of fine barnyard manure evenly spread.

This is a way to secure a smooth, velvety, dark-green lawn, one of the most charming objects about a well-kept premises.

We once secured a good sod by sowing the seed in August; but would not recommend it to be done after the middle of July.—*Ger. Tel.*

Our Agricultural Calendar.

FARM WORK FOR OCTOBER.

October has come with its glorious sunshine and atmosphere; its fruits and leaf coloring; its field labors and field sports; its gentle reminders to the husbandman to gather the harvest of his year's toil, and store the fruition of his hopes ere the rigors of winter overtake him. Well may the rural poet *Somerville* utter the poetic refrain—

"Now golden Autumn from her open lap,
Her fragrant bounties showers; the fields are shorn;
Inwardly smiling the proud farmer views
The rising pyramids that grace his yard,
And counts his large increase; his barns are stored,
And groaning saddles bend beneath their load."

Wheat and Rye.

Finish sowing wheat and rye, and should you have failed to buy some fertilizers rich in the phosphates, and with a good supply of ammonia, it is not too late to procure salt and plaster and sow it over the young plants, at the rate of two bushels of salt to one of plaster, intermixed, or 200 lbs. of *Missouri Bone Meal*, which we think much of, if the true article be used, for the sale of which there is but one agent in Baltimore. Of course you sowed timothy with your small grain.

Corn

Ought to be in the shock. If not, no time is to be lost, or you will lose a great deal, or all your fodder, which, this year particularly, is very valuable. That which was cut off and shocked last month will now be fit to be husked and put in the corn-house. After the middle of the month corn can safely be housed in an airy barn or narrow, cribbed corn house, if not put in too large heaps or quantity. The air must circulate freely through the bulk, or it may turn mouldy. Farmers too often delay gathering their corn crop until it suffers much loss in various ways.

Potatoes.

Gather your potatoes the latter portion of this month, and send to market before the glut from the North comes in, if you intend to sell them the present year. A potato-digging plow is a great aid in securing a crop of potatoes, especially if the land be clear of weeds and grass, and the crop be a fair one.

Hen-Houses.

See they are clean, and free from vermin; dry earth covering the floors, or slacked lime or ashes, so as to compost the droppings, for your poor spots in your corn field next year.

Grapes

May be preserved by being packed in dry oak sawdust. Pick all unripe or defective grapes from the bunches before packing.

Plaster.

Sow plaster over the newly sown small grain crops, not that we think it of itself will materially directly help the wheat or rye, but we believe it will fix, or prevent the escape of the ammonia which will be evolved from the manure, fertilizer or decaying vegetable matter in the land. By its means this valuable aid to the growth of grain crops would be retained until the plants could take it up and appropriate it to their uses. Of late years too little use has been made of this mineral fertilizer, which in many instances has effected wonderful results in its application to crops on soils, and in seasons which gave it opportunity to show its power. On light soils its use is indispensable to the growth of all broad-leaved plants, such as tobacco, cabbage, corn, clover, &c.

Farm Utensils

Not in actual daily use should be cleaned, and put away under dry cover, and such as want repair placed by themselves for thorough overhauling and put in order at the first spare moment, that it be not neglected until next year, when they will be required for immediate use, and at that critical moment be found to be useless.

Cider.

This is the month most favorable to cider-making. Cider is a time-honored, healthy *temperance* drink, and when well made, a delightful beverage. There are many recipes for making cider. We have found the following process to be very satisfactory: clean sweet barrels—new are best; sound, clean, mellow, or well ripened apples, Harrison or Smith's cider, Red-streak, crab or other good cider apples—Grind, press and put in the barrel at once. By leaving it in the must a day or two it adds to the color, but we think injures the flavor. Fill the barrel full, keep some over, to keep the barrel always full that the pomace may run out as fermentation progresses. When fermentation subsides, draw it off into a clean barrel, which is to be filled with cider of the same kind and making; this is passed through a clean cloth to drain off all sediment. Let it stand a few days that fermentation may go on. Then drain it off again into a clean barrel, add two pounds of mustard seed, bung tight and put it in a cool place. It will keep sweet for a long time. Such cider will bring \$20 per barrel. Put up in kegs it sells for higher prices.—Last year it brought \$5 for a five-gallon keg. Cider thus made is better to the taste, is sparkling and tempting and more healthful than champagne made of turnip juice and poisonous drugs.

Apples.

Those who have orchards would do well to bestow time and care in picking and storing their apples, both for a home winter luxury, and as a

source of profit by the sale of them during winter, when they bring high prices. We recommend to all who desire to save their winter apples to heed the following directions of Kendrick, who is a noted authority on such matters. He says "they should be suffered to hang on the trees to as late a period as possible in October, or till hard frosts have loosened the stalks, and they are in danger of being blown down by the winds. Such as have already fallen are carefully gathered and inspected, and the best put up for early wintering. They are carefully gathered by hand from the tree, and as carefully laid in baskets. New, tight flour barrels from the bakers are generally preferred; the baskets being filled are cautiously lowered into the barrels, and reversed. The barrels being quite filled are gently shaken, and the head is gently pressed down to its place, and secured. It is observed that this pressure never causes them to rot *next to the head*, and is necessary, as they are never allowed to rattle in removing. No soft straw or shavings are admitted at the end; it causes mustiness and decay. They are next carefully placed in wagons, and placed on the *bilge* and laid in courses in a cool, airy situation on the north side of buildings near the cellar, protected by a covering of boards, so placed as to defend them from the rain and sun, while the air is not excluded at the sides. A chill does not injure them, but when extreme cold weather comes on, and they are in imminent danger of being frozen, whether by night or by day, they are rolled into a cool, airy, dry cellar, with openings on the north side, that the cold air may have free access; they are laid in tiers, and the cellar is in due time closed and rendered secure from frost.—The barrels are never tumbled or placed on the head. Apples keep best when grown in dry seasons and on dry soils. If fruit is gathered *late*, and according to the above directions, repacking is unnecessary; it is even ruinous, and should on no account be practiced till the barrel is open for use."

Stock.

See that the weanling colts are fed well, and have good pasture, so as to bring them into winter quarters in good condition, without having lost flesh by being deprived of their mother's milk. Weaning time is a critical period in a colt's life, and great attention should be given them for the first year of their growth. The same remarks apply to lambs and calves. Milch cows ought to have some pumpkins and corn-fodder given to them at morn and evening, unless the pastures are unusually good. Breed the most improved stock; if milk and butter be your aim, breed Jerseys; if work cattle, and for dairy purposes, breed Devons; and if milk and beef be your object, breed Durhams or

Herefords. We append the following, taken from one of our exchanges, showing the great economy of breeding or grazing the Short Horns, or even grade Short Horns over the common stock. It is principally from an Indiana correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker*:

"I sometimes pay \$15 for a calf, while others are offered at \$6 or \$7 that I would not accept as a gift; and the best I can buy are only grades (Short Horns.)"

"Here is a difference of over one hundred per cent. at the start. Again: take your common steer at the age of three years. He will weigh 1,100 pounds, worth four cents, equal to \$44. A steer sired by a thoroughbred Short Horn, of a common cow, with the same amount of feed and attention, will weigh 1,400 pounds, and bring 5½ cents per pound, equal to \$77. Balance in favor of a grade steer, \$33; on one hundred steers, \$3,300—enough to buy a small farm, and all on the difference in stock.

"This statement comes from Morgan county, a county long noted for the excellence of its cattle. But the gentleman makes the case still stronger, as follows:

"A thoroughbred steer, at the same age, (three years,) will weigh 1,600 pounds, and be worth 6½ cents, equal to \$100—a difference of \$56 in favor of a thoroughbred. Dr. C. C. Stevenson recently made a statement before the State Board of Agriculture, that he had just sold a lot of good common steers, at 4¼ cents gross; while some Durhams, fed in the same way and of the same age, brought 6½ cts. per pound."

Plowing.

At any time when the ground is in good order, plowing for next year's crops should be carried on. On all stiff soils we advocate fall plowing, that the land may have the pulverizing influences of the frost, and the full benefit from the snow and rain of winter. All such land ought to be plowed *deep*, say ten inches at the least, and the hard stiff pan at the bottom of the furrow broken up with a subsoil plow. We quote from the *Practical Farmer*, which conveys our oft-times expressed views on this subject in a few words, that ought to be treasured up by every farmer:

"Unless there is no such thing as capillary attraction, unless the fact of there being no moisture five inches below the surface proves that it is equally dry six or eight inches deeper; unless the whole theory of dew deposits is wrong, and that a *deep* and *deeply pulverized* soil will attract no more from the atmosphere than shallow and surface plowing; then we hold that this deep system will render us measurably secure in our grass and other crops, from the consequences of such a drought as is now upon us."

FINE SALE OF TOBACCO.—Messrs. Hyat, Commission Merchants on Light Street, made sale last month, of 32 hogshead of tobacco, 2 at \$10½, 15 at \$13½, &c., averaging \$13.20 per 100 lbs. This tobacco was grown in the Forest of Prince George's county, Md., by the sons of Samuel Peach, Esq.—It shows what the soil of that county can produce under careful management, about \$110 per acre.

Garden Work for October.

There is a good deal of work to be done in the garden this month. One of the chief things to be done is

Setting out Cabbage Plants.—During the first week, certainly before the 15th, select a piece of ground with a dry, loamy soil, protected from the north-west, and cover it three inches deep with well rotted stable manure; spade deep, and rake as you spade. Lay off the land in ridges four inches high with the hoe, one foot from the top of one ridge to the next. These ridges should run east and west, so as to face the north and south respectively. Pat the ridges while you make them, so as to compact the sides. Then set the plants six inches apart on the north side, about half way down the sides of the ridges. In November strew long stable manure at the bottom of the ridges for protection and nourishment of the plants during winter. In spring pull down the ridges and work the spaces between the rows; keep the land loose, and as the plants grow, thin them out to two feet apart in the rows, using those cut out for eating as sprouts or collards.

Lettuce.—Set out plants on a warm border, and protect with brush before winter sets in.

Spinach.—Thin out to five inches apart in the rows; keep the soil well stirred and free from weeds—let it make all the growth it can

Celery.—Continue to blanch by earthing up when dry, and water freely occasionally, should not the rains be sufficient.

Endive.—Tie up or cover with garden pots, for blanching and making it crisp and tender.

Onions.—designed for seed next year may now be set out.

Shallots, Garlic, Chives.—Set out these.

Rhubarb and Sea Kale.—Sow seeds of these.

Raspberries, Gooseberries and Currants.—Plant out these three feet apart by four.

Seeds.—Such seeds as ripen must be carefully saved.

Lima and other Pole-Beans.—Gather these as they ripen, and dry on boards in the shade before being put in bags or barrels; do the same with dwarf beans, peas, black beans and blackeyed peas, which two last named make delicious soups, and the little field peas are fine to eat with pork in winter time.

Manure.—Get in a supply of manure, woods' earth, turf and rakings from the garden beds; make a compost heap, sprinkling the layers with plaster, salt and ashes. Make it in a dish form, for the reception of rain and the weekly yield of soap-suds, and by spring you will have a mine of fertility for garden operations.

Asparagus Beds.—Clean the haulm off, manure

and work them; rake smooth, and give a dressing of ashes and salt.

Strawberries.—Clean the strawberry beds of all weeds and grass. Lighten up the soil and mulch, covering all the ground between the plants with leaves, spread over with a coat of woods' earth, mixed with unleached or leached ashes and plaster, thick enough to keep the leaves from blowing away.

Cauliflowers.—These are perfecting their flowers, and require a plenty of moisture; turn the leaves over the flowers to protect them from the sun, as also from heavy rains. The heads will thus become whiter and more tempting in looks.

Broccoli.—The same remarks apply to broccoli, which is nearly as great a delicacy as cauliflower, and is easier grown, and more certain in this climate to head well.

Cold Frames.—Prepare these and set lettuce plants in them, to come in from December to February, and through the spring.

Tomatoes.—The tomato is the most popular and wholesome of all our vegetables, it may be eaten with impunity at all hours, and is much relished, whether raw or cooked, cold or hot, with or without any seasoning, or highly seasoned—alone, or with bread or meat or both, with vinegar or sugar, with dressing for salad, and with onion or not.—It is good served up in any conceivable manner. When canned it eats as fresh in winter as in summer, thus furnishing a standard dish for the table the year round—and people never tire of it as they do of all the other sorts of vegetables, except potatoes. Its healthful qualities is attributed to its slight acidity, like that of berries and such refreshing fruits. The tomato, in both the green and ripe state, makes a delicious pickle as well as preserve. It is very easily grown, suits all soils, sandy or stiff, rich or poor; is valuable for fowls and hogs, and produces more on the same quantity and kind of land than any other vegetable production. Just after the first light frost, if the vines be pulled up by the roots and hung on poles, or laid on sticks in an open shed, or in a well ventilated cellar, the fruit will continue to ripen until Christmas. It is curious that this wonderful vegetable was not used as food until within half a century back. It slowly worked its way into popular favor, the taste for it being altogether a cultivated one. The French brought it into use under the striking name of "*Love Apple*," which proves to have been a most appropriate designation, since it has become so universally loved by everybody, almost without an exception.

Whilst talking of tomatoes, we cannot help expressing our surprise that the large growers of this vegetable in Anne Arundel county who suppl

principally this market with it, should continue to grow the small round tomato, made up as it is of a thick skin, a tough, uneatable, white inside stem, large hollows, and a little pulp filled with seeds instead of growing the new and delicious, large Grant, or still finer Trophy—the King of Tomatoes. These could be more easily gathered, and would command a higher price, for we would prefer one pound of the Trophy to three pounds of the sorts that flood our markets. While that market-garden region of the Patapsco and Severn, furnish the finest of strawberries, watermelons, and unsurpassed canteloupes, and the finest of cabbage, it is strange that the gardeners generally do not sow a better kind of tomato seed. *Some* have sent to market very superior “*Trophies*.”

Horse-Radish.—When you dig this, trim off the small side roots, and cut off the small end of the tap root, and plant out a new bed. Those left over after planting, tie in small bunches, bury like potatoes, and raise a small mound of earth over them, to keep until next spring, when they can be planted between the early cabbage plants, and will, without detriment to the cabbage, produce next October a large crop. Horse-radish sells always at a remunerative price to the gardener. It is in demand, and but few crops pay better per acre.

AMONG THE BUCKEYES.

**Corn—Wheat—Short Horns, C. E. Coffin—Roots
—Grass—Sorghum—Grapes—Wine—State
Fair—Apples Fed to Stock.**

To the Editors of the Maryland Farmer :

Last week I sent you a short article in regard to the *Ohio State Fair*, which in the end proved to be a great success—the entries and receipts being larger than for several years past. There was a splendid presentation of horses, particularly heavy *draft horses*, some of them enormous in size, of noble symmetry and good action; they embraced the Norman, Percheron, Clydesdale, and stocky English “*Cart Horse* ;” and in my opinion the Percherons were the finest, though I believe they did not take the first premium, from some cause; they were all a fine sight.

The *corn crop* of Ohio is immense, in both acreage and yield. In the Hocking, Muskingum and Licking valleys the yield is heavy; but the fields which appeared to show the heaviest yields, both in size and number of ears on the hill, were noticed on the plains between Newark and Mansfield.—Many have begun cutting up their corn.

We noticed that many have commenced sowing their *wheat*; some few put in with *drills*, but not as many adopt that mode as one would think, since the drilled wheat so generally escaped winter-kill-

ing last winter. Preparations are making for sowing a large breadth of wheat this fall.

It is noticeable that *grass* was light this summer, and that hay will be comparatively scarce the coming winter; but its lack will be largely made up by the abundance of corn-fodder, if it be carefully cured and saved. Besides, many of the farmers have planted, and are planting, more acres of *roots* than usual, in which they will certainly find their account, as root raising and feeding is really the basis or cause of the most thrifty English farming and stock growing. When thoroughly tended and cultivated they impoverish the land less than any other equal amount of feed raised, in fact, with deep plowing and plenty of harrowing and cultivating or hoeing, they keep the land so well comminuted and stirred that it constantly absorbs moisture and matter from the atmosphere, and fertilizes and improves it more than the raising of other crops, and gives more yield. More roots must be raised in this country, ere long.

Many patches of *Sorghum* and *Imphæ* were noticed, which looked thrifty and promising; but there is so much *maple* forest in Ohio, and maple sugar made, that the sorghum is not so necessary as in some other States, though the sorghum mills and cider presses were quite numerous. Many farmers seem not to know the best way to dispose of the pressed stalks and apple pumace; if these articles be mixed with clay or muck, or leaf-mold from the forest, and a portion of lime or ashes be also mixed in, they make a large quantity of most excellent manure or compost, at very cheap cost; and the best and most profitable way to use it is to spread on the meadows or winter wheat-fields, late in autumn or early winter, as a *top-dressing*, or on rows of corn and potatoes, as soon as they are fairly up, as a *mulch*. Thus it will afford an increase of crop of much more worth than the cost of preparing and applying; we repeatedly tried the operation with good success in the West; but if applied to the soil in a raw state, or without composting, these pulps and pumaces often do injury by their great sourness—the acidness hinders plant growth.

At the Fair, and along the route, we saw some fine herds of *Short Horns*, but none equal, in size or beauty, to those in the herd of C. E. Coffin, Esq.—We saw one spring calf, roan, sold for \$400 at the fair.

In Hocking, Vinton, Ross and some other counties, we visited many fine, luxuriant *vineyards*, where we liberally enjoyed the delicious *grapes* and *wine*. The crop is very bountiful this season, as well as *apples*. Grapes sell at three to five cents. Apples fed to stock in great quantities.

D. S. C.

PUBLIC ROADS.

The committee appointed by the late Road Convention, assembled on the 22d Aug. at 12 M. at the Rooms of the State Agricultural Society in Baltimore, and after some general conversation between the members from various parts of the State, Mr. D. Lawrence, of Howard Co., called the meeting to order as chairman of the committee, and stated all that had been done by the committee, since it was appointed, at its different meetings, and he then called the Hon. A. B. Davis, temporarily to the chair, whilst he read and explained the report incorporating provisions of a Law, which he had prepared at the instance of most of the members of the committee who were present at the former meetings. On taking the chair, Mr. Davis, spoke in substance as follows :

Of the Location of Public Roads.

Public roads should be located as nearly as possible to a horizontal line. Not only does the experience of all humane and observant reinsmen and teamsters teach this—but a little study of the anatomical structure of the horse will convince the most indifferent and skeptical upon this point. The strength of all animals is derived from, and lies in the vertebræ or back-bone. That of man being vertical, he is seen with ease and agility climbing steep ascents, lofty ladders and successive flights of stair steps. The most familiar example of the ease with which heavy loads are carried by man on the shoulder, is that of the hod carrier and the miller. The horse being on all fours—his vertebræ is directly at right angles to that of man—and when at ease is parallel with the level space which he always selects. He is frequently seen standing across his stall to bring himself as nearly as possible to this horizontal position. Hence, when forced upon steep grades, he is out of his natural position, and deprived of the ability to exert the full strength with which nature has endowed him—and hence loss of power, loss of speed, and loss of full usefulness to his owner. Both humanity and economy demand that this great and too-frequent error in the location of public roads, should as far as possible be lessened in old roads and avoided in the new. A mistake however, in location is fatal, because when once made, it cannot afterwards be easily corrected.

Of the Construction of Roads.

Hardness and smoothness are the essentials of a good road. To obtain this, perfect drainage is indispensable. A writer upon roads has observed that "one dollar in drainage upon a road, is worth ten dollars spent upon its surface." So important is thorough drainage to obtain a smooth and hard road track. The superior value of a hard road is witnessed every winter in the country, when farmers avail themselves of severe freezing weather, when the ground is hard frozen, for their heaviest hauling. Nothing can be equal to a hard frozen road, when worn to smoothness by a few days travel. The books more handsomely illustrate the importance of a hard as well as a smooth road, by supposing a marble projected upon a piece of velvet stretched beside a cake of ice of equal length; and vice versa. The experiment will soon satisfy the most incredulous that smoothness without hardness will never make a perfect road.

Of the Repair of Public Roads.

To obtain the hardness and smoothness insisted upon in the preceding head, public roads should be kept up rather than repaired. The old adage, "that a stitch in time saves nine," is pre-eminently applicable to the repair of roads. When suffered to delapidate so as to need repair, two positive wrongs are committed.

First; a breach of contract with the travelling public, and Second; a loss and damage to the proprietors of the road. To keep up a road, as is here suggested, requires skill, judgment and perfect familiarity, by frequent inspection of the road. The common practice of appointing supervisors from any other consideration than that of fitness for the office, and interest in and acquainted with the road, is a fraud upon the public who use the road, and a direct robbery of those at whose expense it has to be kept up, whether the road be owned and managed by the county, through their County Commissioners; or by a private corporation. Undoubtedly the kind of road most likely to obtain the perfection herein insisted upon, is a toll road. Because first, it is the interest of those who build the road to keep it up, secondly; because the owners can be made to feel the penalty of neglect, and thirdly; because it is kept up at the expense of those only who use it, and consequently is the more equitable than any other mode of laying out, and keeping up public roads. The objection to free county roads is, that the responsibility of construction and repair, is so diffused as to avoid the penalty of neglect and mismanagement; and further the tax paying public never will be satisfied with a system which taxes them for improvements in which they have no interests and never see or use. Therefore the toll road becomes the only equitable alternative; but to induce the construction of toll roads, authority must be given to lay a toll sufficient to reimburse the capital necessary for their construction and preservation.

Where the old county system of laying out and keeping in repair public roads is adhered to, I would suggest that counties be divided into much smaller road districts than at present, and upon each separate road district be thrown the expense and responsibility of the construction and repair of its own roads. The object of this suggestion is to concentrate responsibility, and to bring public and private interest into as close proximity as possible.

As an inducement to individuals to construct toll roads; the system adopted in Washington county of subscribing on the part of the county one-fifth or more, the cost of each mile of Turnpike, appears to be a good one, and works I understand satisfactory to the people. The effect is to encourage the construction of Turnpikes, and to lessen the expense of keeping up indifferent county roads by general taxation.

The Effects of Good Roads.

The first and most striking effect of good roads, is the increased value they at once impart to land adjacent and convenient thereto. I have seen land increased from one hundred to one thousand per cent. by the opening of a good road. I have never seen it depreciated.

The second and almost equally beneficial result, is in its social effect. By good roads, a community is compacted, and brought closer together. Mutual sympathies grow up, and mutual schemes for advancement and improvement soon follow: schools, churches and lyceums are built and patronized, and all the concomitants of a homogenous people are soon developed, rendering such a people as prosperous, happy and contented as it is possible in this life to be.

With such results, if these crude suggestions shall obtain the approval of the convention, and through its influence

be embodied in the form of law, the good old State of Maryland will take an important step onward, and soon be what her geographical position, mild climate and generous soil entitled her, to rank, as one of the most populous, intelligent, and wealthy States of the Union.

At the conclusion of Mr. D.'s remarks, Mr. William Webster was appointed Secretary, and Mr. Lawrence read his report. It is a lengthy and elaborate report, advocating the District system, with many novel features, and shows great labor and research. It was pretty thoroughly ventilated in the discussion of its merits by Messrs. Davis of Montgomery, Webster, of Baltimore county; Dorsey, of Howard; Whitley, of Baltimore county; Walker, of Prince George's; Elliott, of St. Mary's; and Dorsey of Carroll. The committee finally determined to submit it to the convention to be reassembled upon the call of the President. On motion of D. Lawrence, Esq., a letter was prepared, requesting Col. W. W. Bowie, President of the Convention, to call it, on on the 10th of October, at 7.30 P. M. at Raine's Buildings, in Baltimore City. The committee then adjourned to that day.

The following is a copy of the Act proposed by Mr. Lawrence, which is to be the subject of discussion at the next Road Convention, and if adopted, to be submitted to the Legislature at its next session for their adoption:

SECTION 1. The voters of the State of Maryland shall assemble at their usual voting places in their respective election districts on the first Saturday of March of each year at the hour of two P. M., (of which due notice shall be given by the sheriff of the county in the manner now prescribed by law for other elections, and shall elect by ballot a District Road Commissioner, who shall serve for twelve months, and until his successor shall replace him.

SEC 2. The District Road Commissioners (that is to say, one commissioner from each election district in the county,) shall constitute a Board of County Road Commissioners, sue and be sued as such, etc., and shall meet on the first Tuesday of each month, or oftener if their duties shall demand it, at the Court House, (in apartments which the County Commissioners shall furnish them,) for the transaction of business; the first Board, however, and all newly elected Boards, shall hold their first meeting on the first Tuesday after the first Saturday in March, and on the first Tuesday of each month thereafter.

SEC 3. The County Board of Road Commissioners, at their first meeting in March, shall elect a President and Secretary, (who shall serve as Treasurer,) from their own number, and shall proceed to levy a labor tax upon the taxable property of the county which in their judgment shall be necessary for the repair of the public roads thereof, which tax shall be paid in labor upon the road near the premises so taxed, and in the road district specified by the Commissioner; or may be commuted by the payment to the overseer of \$1.50 for each day of the said tax.

SEC 4. Within ten days from such meeting it shall be the duty of the Road Commissioners—each in his own election district—to lay off the roads into

road districts of a length suitable for their repair, not exceeding three miles, and shall appoint within the ten days specified for each road district an Overseer of Highways, and the said road district shall be properly numbered in a book which the District Commissioner shall keep for the purpose, together with the limits of each road district; at the time of such appointment of an overseer, and by the 20th of March, the Road Commissioners shall furnish each Overseer a list of the persons taxed in his road district, with the amount of tax in days for each person so taxed to pay, and eight hours shall constitute a day for the duties required by this Act.

SEC. 5. The Overseer shall then give at least two days' notice to each person on his list to assemble at a certain place on the highway, for the purpose of its repair; but the immediate payment of the commutation money shall exempt the person so paying from such highway labor, and a verbal notice at the person's usual place of abode shall be considered a legal service.

SEC. 6. And the persons so taxed shall be allowed to work out the said tax at the following rates for each day's service of the articles mentioned:

For each Pair of Horses or Working Cattle—one day.	
“ Cart or Wagon in use.....	“
“ Plow or Scraper.....	“
“ Hand over eighteen.....	“

SEC. 7. The Overseer shall keep a correct account of the amount of tax paid in labor or money, or remaining unpaid, by each person; make returns under oath, therefor, to the District Road Commissioner; see that two-thirds at least of the road tax is worked out before the first day of May, and the remainder before the first day of October; cause all loose stone to be removed from the road previous to the first day of August, and also all injurious and useless vegetation to be cut down once before the first day of July, and again near and before the first day of September, with the exercise of discretion in regard to such growth as may afford proper shade to the highway; and shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for neglect of duty, and shall receive one dollar per day for his services the whole amount not to exceed \$5 per annum, the object being to annul the compensation feature as soon as the law shall be thoroughly established, as the Overseers in other States are not paid, as they do but little more work than their tax calls for.

SEC 8. All male persons over eighteen years of age, not taxed by the provisions of Sec. 3, and physically qualified, shall work two days on the public roads in each year, under the direction of the Overseer of Highways, or may commute the same by payment to the Overseer of \$1.50 for each day of the tax unpaid, provided this section shall not apply to operatives in factories, nor residents of corporate towns.

SEC. 9. It shall further be the duty of the District Commissioner to see that the roads in his district are promptly, regularly and efficiently repaired—made convex with proper culverts, and water bay and guide-board at each cross roads—within the time specified; issue directions to the Overseers, in regard to the most effectual mode of repair, which directions, together with the duties of Overseers, as specified by this Act, shall be printed on the Tax List and Road Warrant of each Overseer; collect the judgments which he shall render, not disposed of by Sec. 15; make returns to the County Board of the amount of money appropriated by his district for road purposes, as provided in Sec. 13;

give orders on the Treasurer of the County Board for such monies as shall be expended on the roads of his district, in accordance with the intention of Sec. 13; take receipts from Overseers for such implements as shall be furnished them, and see that said implements are handed over to succeeding Overseers; and for all services required by this Act he shall receive one dollar and fifty cents for each day so occupied, the whole amount not to exceed two hundred dollars per annum, to be paid by the district which elected him.

Sec. 10. It shall further be the duty of the County Board of Road Commissioners to build such bridges between road districts, and assist in building such joint bridges between counties as shall be necessary; provide for the repair of the public roads in such road or election districts as shall fail to comply with the provisions of this Act, the expenses thereof to be borne by such districts; fill any vacancy in their number from the district to be represented; make additional provision for the repair of highways and bridges when in case of special necessity, by virtue of a thinly settled district, public calamity, or other good and sufficient cause the condition of the highways shall demand it; make requisition on the County Commissioners for monies expended according to Sections 17 and 18; furnish such implements to Overseers as, in the exercise of a strict and judicious economy, they shall deem necessary, the amount not to exceed five hundred dollars per annum; hear and decide all cases which shall arise under this act, and exercise exclusive control over the public roads of the county, and all questions which shall arise concerning their repair and to levy a money tax (in addition to the labor tax mentioned in Sec. 3) upon the taxable property of the county which shall be sufficient to meet the expenses incurred hereby.

Sec. 11. The requisition for money of the County Board of Road Commissioners upon the County Commissioners shall include the levy mentioned in Sec. 10, and also the amounts respectively appropriated by the election districts, and shall be signed by the President and Treasurer of the Road Commissioners; and the amount which shall be appropriated by any election district, according to the provisions of Sec. 13, shall be levied upon the property of that district, and applied to the improvement of the roads and bridges of that district, and to no other.

Sec. 12. The District Commissioners shall enter into such bonds for the faithful performance of their duties as the County Board shall deem necessary, and the Treasurer of the County Board shall give bond to the County Board in the sum of five thousand dollars for the faithful performance of the duties of his office.

Sec. 13. At the district elections called for in Sec. 1 of this Act, the people of each election district shall determine what amount of money shall be levied upon the district for the repair of the roads and bridges thereof, in addition to the general labor levy for the same purpose, upon the taxable property of the county, as required by Sec. 3.

Sec. 14. In case of neglect or refusal of any person taxed to comply with the provisions of this Act, the District Commissioner shall not later than the 1st day of October, duly notify (at least five days beforehand,) the said person of the charge against him, and the time and place, which shall be the election district in which such person shall reside, of hearing the case. Should the charge be

sustained, or the party fail to appear, the Commissioner shall give judgment against him to the amount of \$1 50 for each day of the said person's tax unpaid, and the said person shall have the right of appeal to the County Board, whose decision shall be final; but the party so appealing shall do so within thirty days, by giving security which shall be acceptable to the Commissioner for the prompt payment of the amount of the tax should the decision of the County Board be adverse to the party appealing.

The District Commissioner shall then repair such roads as shall not have been repaired, and work out the unpaid taxes to the full amount of said tax unpaid, at the expense of the delinquents, and which when paid shall be in discharge of the judgments rendered against the parties so refusing or neglecting to pay.

Sec. 15. All road-tax judgments remaining unpaid at the expiration of the year shall be forwarded by the District Commissioners to the County Board, who shall make a requisition upon the County Commissioners for the amounts, and the County Commissioner shall then at the next regular levy include the said amounts in the levy, and against the property of the parties against whom they stand.

Sec. 16. Where the parties against whom judgment has been given by the District Commissioners possess no taxable property, the said judgment shall be of equal force and effect before the law as other judgments rendered by Justices of the Peace for debt, and for their collection any amount of money may be attached, without the usual reservation of \$ — in favor of the debtor; or—no property shall be exempt from execution for its collection, (see Sec. 44 p. 11, Constitution of Maryland;) or—

Hard Roads.

Sec. 17. At their first meeting in March of each year the County Board of Road Commissioners shall issue a call—to which due publicity shall be given in the county newspapers—to the people to assemble in their respective election districts, at the usual voting places, on the last Saturday in March to vote what thoroughfares, if any, shall be graded and macadamized—it being the intent of this Act that at least two of the main and most frequently used highways of each county shall be so graded and macadamized. Should the people then by means of paid subscriptions to a joint Stock Company, voluntary labors or other means, grade and macadamize one-half of the said road or roads, that is to say, expend upon the said road or roads one-half of such amount as in the judgment of the County Board shall be necessary to grade and macadamize the whole of the said road or roads, then the County Commissioners—after the conditions of Sec. 54, Article 3d of the Constitution shall have been complied with—shall issue the bonds of the County for the remainder of the amount necessary to complete the road or roads, and payable in ten years, and the County Board of Road Commissioners shall subscribe to the stock of the Company, in case the improvements were made by a Company, an amount equal to those bonds, which shall be devoted to the completion of the road; and the County shall be entitled to a representation by a member of the County Road Commissioners in the meetings of the Company equal to its share in the stock of the Company, and to all other rights and privileges enjoyed by other stock holders.

In case the improvements were made by the voluntary labors of the people, then the County Board shall proceed to expend an equal amount upon the road in such manner as shall be most effectual.

SEC. 18. In case any party or parties shall desire to spend in improvements on the county roads or bridges any certain amount, by stating, in writing, the amount and specific object to which it is to be applied, to the County Board, and receiving their permission to make such improvement, the said party or parties may do so, and the County Board shall, upon sufficient evidence of the expenditure of the amount, and the accomplishment of the object specified in the petition, give the party or parties so improving the road or bridge an order on the Treasurer of the County Board for one-half of the amount so expended.

Opening Roads.

SEC. 19. All applications for new roads shall be made to the District Commissioner, who shall give at least five days' notice beforehand in writing at three principal places in the vicinity of the proposed road of the time and place of hearing the said application, and any objections thereto. Should the proposed road in the judgment of the Commissioner be necessary, he shall proceed to appoint three disinterested Examiners and Commissioners for the same, and take such other measures as are prescribed for such cases; any party, however, shall have the right of appeal within thirty days to the County Board of Road Commissioners, who shall within thirty days hear and decide the question, after taking such measures as shall be necessary to give all parties interested a full and impartial hearing. Should the road be granted, and any person still remain opposed to the opening of the said road, he may demand a Board of Inquiry, and the County Board shall then summon three disinterested persons, who shall have had no previous connection with the proceedings relating thereto, as such Board of Inquiry, who shall fully examine the premises in dispute, and make a report of such examination to the County Board within thirty-five days from their appointment, and the County Board shall then proceed to hear anew all the testimony in the matter, and shall finally decide the question without any appeal therefrom; and for his services under this Sec. each Examiner or member of a Board of Inquiry shall receive \$1.50 per day for such service, the whole amount not to exceed \$5 for each person so appointed.

Gates.

SEC. 20. All gates now obstructing the free use of the county thoroughfares shall be gradually abolished by such means as shall be decided upon by the Road Commissioners and County Commissioners, acting together, of the respective counties, provided, however, that no new gates shall henceforth be erected, and that all gates shall be removed within ten years from the passage of this Act.

Vacating Roads.

SEC. 21. All proceedings for vacating roads shall be the same as those prescribed in Sec. 19 for opening roads.

SEC. 22. No officer appointed under this Act shall be required to serve as juror during his term of office.

SEC. 23. Any person who shall obstruct free travel in any manner shall be liable for all damages

resulting therefrom, and the District Commissioner shall have power to sue such person whenever in his judgment the case shall demand it.

ROAD CONVENTION.

In pursuance of the direction of the convention assembled in the city of Baltimore in March last, I hereby call upon the members of the same, to re-assembled in the city of Baltimore at Raine's Hall, on the 10th day of October next, at 7.30 P. M.

Every land owner, farmer, property holder, and all other persons who feel interested in the Road system, or desire the improvement of the public Roads, are cordially invited to attend, and urgently requested to show their sympathy in the important effort now being made to place our public highways in a condition that will add to the comfort of the traveller, increase the facilities of transportation, and greatly augment the material wealth of the State.

WALTER W. W. BOWIE,
President Convention.

EVAPORATION OF WATER.

"It has been calculated," says Mr. Dick, "that from an acre of ground, during 12 hours of a Summer day, more than 1,600 gallons of water have been drawn up into the air in the form of vapor." "By most carefully conducted experiments, Dr. Halley came to the conclusion that every square mile of the farm evaporates 6,914 tons of water, in vapor, per day!" Simon Brown says any one who is curious to observe whether these statements are trustworthy or not, may very easily test the matter for himself. Take a fine linen handkerchief, one foot square, and weigh it accurately on the druggist's scales. Early in the morning of a hot day set four sticks into the ground, just 12 inches apart, and tack each corner of the cloth to the top of one of the sticks. When drops have accumulated on the under side of the cloth, weigh again, deduct the weight of the cloth, and the weight of water will show the amount evaporated during the time the cloth was suspended. Now multiply this by 43,560, the number of square feet to an acre, find the weight of a gallon of water, and the experiment is made. Or, measure the amount obtained, and multiply by the number of feet in an acre, which may be a more simple way of coming at it.

When scientific experiments lead to such startling facts as stated above, it is to be regretted that a more particular statement was not given as to the condition of the ground, when this experiment was made; whether the earth was dry or wet, or how long after there had been rain. We are almost sure during the latter part of our drought in July last there was not 6,914 lbs., much less tons of water, including spring and streams, and moisture in the land within five feet of the surface, in a mile square of any portion of a large section of country in southern Maryland, and other places in the State.

JAKOBB DUNK PAPERS
ON
FACTS, FILOSOPHY AND FARMIN.
—
PAPER NUMBER XIII.

On Politics.

The above heading need not startle the reader. Every farmer has a vote, and it is quite as necessary to instruct him how to vote—when there is need of such instruction—as it is to instruct the members of other vocations in regard to *their* interests. I see by the public prints that a vast amount of information is furnished, and a large quantity of advice is offered, to enable every reader to take such a course as will best promote his own interest and the general welfare of the community, which latter should be the chief object of all political action. I see also that the agricultural journals are beginning to agitate this question in so far as it has a bearing upon agriculture, and the tendency will be observed to unite upon a basis of good to the farming community, independent of and in opposition to the contracted arena of party limits, party pass-words and party passion.

We—that means the little band of Advancement, generally found in every intelligent neighborhood, which prefers the elevation and improvement of the people of its vocation, to its own individual aggrandizement—had come to the conclusion that action of some kind was necessary in this line to give the greatest efficiency to our proceedings; and here, while alluding to the severe exertions of that honorable and enlightened few who labor in the valley for better things, let me lay an humble but devout tribute of respect upon the unspotted altars they have erected. Brethren of Progress, the High Priests of our Sublime Order, have stood by faith upon hill-tops which are all aglow with the light of the coming dawn—the night passeth; morning breaks, and that perseverance which is victory even while it struggles, will soon bring us to the vantage ground.

It was deemed expedient to circulate independent views as opportunities should present themselves, and one morning while going up to the Codge for some repairs with a friend of mine, we met Jakobb returning from his early visit for ‘sumthing.’

This young friend was the Secretary of our Farmers’ Club—the first and most important step towards better things for farmers, is the establishment and support of a Farmers’ Club in every election district or school district in the country—and a thorough reformer. Whatever was wrong in the community, whatever stood in the way of the farmer’s interest, met in him a stern enemy, and an advocate for its immediate removal. Like Agis, the Lacedamonian King, he never asked how many the enemy numbered, but where they were; his lance was always in hand for a tilt for his cause; if the people wanted a new church, or a larger school-house, he was ‘in’ for it immediately, and supposed every one else equally in favor of the project; he has had considerable experience with human nature lately, and I notice he is cooling down.

Knowing that he entertained independent views concerning political action upon the part of farmers, I thought I would let him try his hand on Jakobb, and said to him, ‘here comes Mr. Dunk; see what you can do with him about your inde-

pendent movement,’ and in a moment Jakobb hailed us—

“Mornin’, Joodge; Mornin’, Mr. Sekretary; monstrus dry wether on korn; any news surrin’ ’round in your part of the world?”

Said the Sekretary—“Yes; I’ve got a little news for you; we don’t think as much attention is paid to the interests of farmers as they should receive, and I’m for a Farmers’ Ticket next fall independent of all existing political parties.”

Said Mr. Dunk—“Things has been goin’ mighty bad for the farmer, certin, but what pints do you think o’ presentin’ to the people, or how ye goin’ to manige things when ye git the power?”

Said the Sekretary—“The intelligent portion of the farmers of Maryland is anxious for a stringent dog-tax law for the State, as a protective measure in favor of sheep husbandry, but successive Legislatures disregard the agricultural voice for the measure, and we must back it by agricultural votes.”

Said Mr. Dunk—“I don’t kno’ ’bout a dog law, whether it’ll do enny good or not.”

Said the Sekretary—“A fair canvass and vote on the measure, free from partisan agitation, would show a majority of the people for it, and the majority ought to rule, and we will rule after the farmers get their eyes open, and they are opening very fast; then you want good roads, don’t you?”

Said Mr. Dunk—“Certinly; everybody does; but kin ye git ’em by histing the question up onto a campaign ticket, and hollerin’ yerselves hoarse over it?”

Said the Sekretary—“That’s the way to do it.—Let us make a straight issue on these matters, and show our strength; party, as we apply the term to political bodies, has been defined as ‘the madness of many for the gain of a few,’ and while farmers have become more or less excited in every canvass, their calling has received very little attention from the successful candidates, and as other vocations are combining for their protection, and demanding the enactment of special laws in their favor, farmers also ought to combine and do the same thing, otherwise it leaves them unprotected, and a prey to the closely-banded leagues around them.”

Said Mr. Dunk—“Could you be guilty of sowin’ the seeds of dissatisfaction in our party ranks, and tryin’ to break up the glorious old Spoilpocket party what has led us to victory on so many battle fields?”

Said the Sekretary—“Parties have had a very beneficial influence upon the administration of our public affairs, it is true, but party leaders have also consulted those prejudices among the people which would be most likely to give them the most votes, and not those interests which demand their protection. In addition to a dog law and a road law, we want a good fence law, to prevent this constant difficulty between neighbors about the trespassing of stock, which could readily be avoided by a simple statute regulating the matter, and specifying the duties of land-owners in the premises; farmers have been quarreling and lawing for over a hundred years about damages and bad fencing, and what has the Legislature done for them in that matter? When I look at the situation from a number of stand-points, and see how completely the agricultural interest has been made subordinate to the attorney’s interest; when I look at the arbitrary extortion upon the part of the legal profession—the world’s law-givers—as exhibited in our present organic and statute law upon one side, and the

ignorant servility of the agricultural masses upon the other, I almost despise my high profession of a farmer. Under the skillful manipulation of the lawyers, it is difficult for a couple of farmers to settle a dispute without calling upon the lawyers to take a hand in it; our State is suffering for need of a Bureau of Immigration, but our Legislators appear unable to solve the vexed question, and in the mean time *other* States have settled the question to such a degree that out of the thousands of immigrants which land at our port, only a few (not over three per cent.,) remain in the State; we need also a State Board of Agriculture, based upon a recognition of the fact that the agriculture of a State, when successful, is a foundation upon which it may confidently erect an enduring super-structure, and upon whose excellence depends the success of all other vocations; the Fertilizer question also appears unsettled, for the provisions of the law affecting to dispose of the matter are persistently ignored by manufacturers, which necessarily leaves the farmer helpless; and with these evidences of existing grievances before us, and with the pressure of these burdens upon us, I am for striking for justice with our own right arms, without a particle of consultation or compromise with existing parties; what has the Spoilspocket party done for farmers? absolutely nothing. What has the Cheatcomagain party done for farmers? no more than the other, and disgusted with all parties, believing reform or redress under them impossible, I am for lifting up over the heads of the people the spotless ensign of a Farmers' Ticket, and gathering to its support the free ballots of the yeomanry of Maryland parties! My idea of political parties, and the relations existing between their leaders and the people, may be summed up in a few words: the people are fed on raw meat and rot-gut liquor at barbecues and gatherings, and the leaders take the soft shell crabs, the Heidsick, and the luxuries, and the people pay for *both* bills, and attribute the crumbs they get to the liberality of the magnanimous candidates."

Said Mr. Dunk—"I'm a farmer myself, and I'd like to see everything workin' well for farmin' men, but I don't like to snap at everything new that cums along; besides, there's always sumthing new got out to help sum people into an office, and when they git in they're jest as bad as any of the others; here's the Cheekumagins, what's in now; they talked like their want goin' to be no taxes at all this year, and the new levy's higher 'an ever was known afore. I guess it's only a cry of sum feller that wants an orphis."

It is hard for a righteous man, struggling disinterested and self-sacrificingly for the welfare of his race, to have his motives impeached, and when this is done from jealousy, envy, ignorance or malice, no amount of argument or protestation will overthrow the impression.

The Secretary felt indignant at this species of opposition, and signified his willingness to enter into any arrangement, no matter at what sacrifice to himself, that would give the farmers the benefit of the laws they desired; the advance guard are not anxious for spoil, they want victory.

Said Mr. Dunk—"You want to keep a poor man's cow from feedin' on the commons, I s'pose?"

Said the Secretary—"The necessity of a good Stock Law is evident to the intelligent element in the State, whose high position I think should save it from the charge of a desire to work oppression in any form."

Said Mr. Dunk—"I'm afeered it'll only make taxes higher and do no good; the people's ag'in most o' them new fangled idees; we've got along without 'em a good menny yeers, and I reckon we kin do without 'em a few years longer, partikularly if you've got to grind down a poor man to git 'em."

Said the Secretary—"If the introduction of those measures was an experiment, we might doubt the excellence of results; but how is it that we find the condition of the laboring man the best, and his wages highest right where all the ideas I have mentioned are incorporated in the statute law, or the 'law of custom.'"

Said Mr. Dunk—"May be; tha may do for sum sections, but the people's ag'in 'em here, and ye kant git 'em through right away, anyhow,"—and the effort to convert Jakob over to the Party of Progress ended, and we parted with him.

Said the Secretary to me, "You have heard the objections of this man—and he may be considered a representative of a certain class—what do you think of the prospect?"

Said I to him, "I will confess that I do not see success by the means you design to use; it is evident that the agricultural masses either do not know what they want, and are too indifferent to endeavor to secure it, or are unwilling to encounter the results of a failure; if in the first place the opposition springs from ignorance, it will take a long time to inculcate the necessary information, and in the mean time pre-judice and misconception of interest, with the designing influences of those whose interest it is to mislead them, (I mean the politicians,) will operate against the reception of the truth by the very parties to be benefited by it; if, in the second place, the apathy of the masses prevents the success of these measures for their welfare, that apathy would exist to almost as great a degree in the future, even if a separate party was organized to advocate them; look at the primary elections of the different parties; a mere handful of people attend to direct their own affairs, and choose their own servants, and yet we hear a constant complaint among the farmers of 'high taxes,' 'hard times,' 'farmin' don't pay,' 'the fat office-holders get all the money,' 'the politicians are ruining the people,' &c., &c., and yet they will not stretch out their hands at the primary election to have them made whole by that simple process; what reason have we for believing that farmers will act differently—with sufficient energy to secure success—hereafter? The same means which will be necessary under your programme would secure success under existing circumstances; we have a free ballot, designed by the founders of our Government for the complete redress of all grievances among the people, that the peace of society might not be disturb'd by violent opposition to established law; if farmers, with that peaceful and efficient weapon at their command, refuse to use it for their advancement, they must suffer the consequences; the only sorrowful feature in the matter being the fact that the innocent and energetic few in the community must suffer with the masses, their exertions being insufficient to overthrow the incubus of apathy which presses them into the mire. It is true the efforts of the people to secure reform have often failed, heretofore, in consequence of previous manipulation and intrigue, and 'the secret machinery of local combinations against them,' as you remarked in one of your resolutions, but how long would that stand before the persistent

determination of the people to secure justice, that determination without which failure is inevitable under any programme?

"If, in the third place, opposition arises from a fear of unpopularity upon the part of farmers themselves, how can we eradicate that fear? Farmers, prominent, intelligent farmers, are divided between two prominent parties, and many of them are seeking or desire official position; the great body of office holders of the State, outside of municipal limits, are farmers. Could we expect that large and influential body of men to work against their own interests? and the advocacy of certain measures necessary for the welfare of the people would deprive any man of votes which should attempt to secure them.

"If we look around our own county, we find that every prominent, intelligent farmer in the county is in favor of the principal features of our new Road Law, except one; he *was* in favor of it, but yielded under pressure, and when farmers are divided among themselves, success, which depends upon a union of interests, appears impossible. Other callings which have secured control of the stream of legislation, and diverted it so as to make their pastures green and fertile, have been united; *we* are divided.

"If you make these questions a party issue, farmers will take party grounds against them, and with the dead weight of the parties to be elevated against you, there can be no advancement, and a consideration of the full import of this proposition would discourage a third movement, even if the object was to hold the balance of power, and dictate terms where we could best secure the success of our measures."

Said the Secretary, "So you give up the battle, I see; what is your programme, submission?"

Said I in reply, "I would not surrender, and I would not give up the battle. I would bring the wisdom of the serpent to our assistance, and make use of means that *will* secure success. One of our farmers drew up a law in the interest of his class, took it down to Annapolis, presented it to his delegate, and asked, 'Can you get it through?'

"Yes," replied the honorable gentleman "but it will cost you a thousand dollars."

"And my plan would be to *raise the money* and put the laws through. If we have got to pay our representatives twice, let us do it at once; we are paying them a dozen times under the present system of inaction, and this is the way I would do it: let us organize in every election district in the State a Farmers' Club, with monthly meetings; let us organize in every county a County Agricultural Association, with quarterly meetings, and let clubs and associations rally around the standard of the State Society, and make its voice irresistible when it asks in the House or the Senate for justice. What interest would not yield before a demand backed by fifty thousand votes, and the rich dinners of the richest lobby working for and paid by the rich agricultural interest.

"I am disgusted with the poor mouth farmers are constantly making over their sublime vocation, and the longing looks of envy they cast at the 'higher' life of railroad kings and merchant princes. What gives other pursuits their polish? Combination, and the thousands they spend lavishly—with a most economical extravagance—to get back millions, and when the farmer lays aside his prodigal closefistedness, and exercises a judicious profusion in the same channel by which other pursuits have secured their eminence, his calling will be represented

in the van of host of honorable competition by a giant armed and ready for combat."

APPLE BUTTER.

The best apple butter is made of sound sweet apples for the cider, and tart ones to cook with it. The operation is simple when once understood, and I am surprised that those having the material should dispense with this cheap, healthful and excellent preserve. I make it on a large scale in a wash boiler with a copper bottom. The apples are carefully washed before the cider is made. The latter, after being carefully strained, is put in the boiler and boiled down to one half—the scum which arises being skimmed off. (This is really the sediment which would go to the bottom if the cider were allowed to remain over night before the boiling commenced.) The boiler is already half full of cider, filled up with apples pared, cored and sliced, (tart being the best) and the cooking now commences in good earnest. It is best to leave a few of the apples out until the others have boiled half an hour, to prevent their running over. They must be constantly stirred now, for this is the most important part of the work. If left in a boiler five minutes without attention it would burn. As the cooking progresses the danger of burning increases, for the fluid is gradually reduced to a solid.

If spices are used they should not be put in until the butter is nearly done. Ground cloves, cinnamon and mace are considered best; but I prefer leaving out all stimulants and enjoy the natural taste of the fruit. The consistency of the butter may vary with the taste of the person. I like it rather thin, but it will keep longer by being thoroughly cooked. Many will not undertake the "job" because they think it takes too long to get it through. I have made nearly a bushel a day by keeping the cider and apples constantly boiling. I would put on the cider early in the morning, and by noon it would be ready for the apples, which are put in without allowing the cider to cool, and the work would be over by 7 or 8 o'clock.

I forgot to state that the cider should be stirred occasionally to prevent scorching, and bits of china may be dropped in after the apples are put on, to keep them from sticking to the bottom.

The above is a plain recipe we published some years ago, and now reprint it for the benefit of our large number of new subscribers, and in view of a growing taste of our people for this delightful sauce, that is so good a substitute for the high-priced and generally bad *cow-butter*. Where both are on the table women and children usually "go in" for the *apple* in preference to the *cow-butter*. It is often spoilt by the injudicious use of spices. Those who use it much, pronounce it very healthful fare.

COTTON AND CORN IN ALABAMA.—The September number of the *Rural Alabamian*, says:

From general late reports, it is estimated that the cotton crop of Alabama will be reduced from forty to fifty per cent. by the worm and the recent floods. The corn crop is reported as being in excellent condition, and in prospective quantity far ahead of any year since the war.

For the Maryland Farmer.

SOMETHING ABOUT TOBACCO.

Your correspondent has passed his summer holiday not by the seaside nor in the mountains, but mainly around where corn fields, and tobacco fields and grain fields were objects of the farmers' care. The wheat has turned out better than was hoped. The corn has come bravely through the most trying season for drouth and long continued excessive heat—not a full crop to be sure, but saved at the last moment from what seemed utter ruin almost, by a fine soaking rain. These remarks apply of course to only a limited range of observation.

In the tobacco crop I have felt interest enough to take a hand through all the steps of its progress—dropping, planting, weeding, plastering, tapping, suckering, worming. It was old familiar work and I liked it. I have thought some times that working in tobacco was like smoking and chewing—a taste hard to get rid of and easy to return to, for I hardly ever saw an old planter any more than an old chewer that was willing to give it up.

For my own part, with no tastes for any of its final uses, I confess to a weakness for cultivating, and especially for selling it when the price is high. I have not yet risen to the height of the moral argument (if it has any height) which makes it a sin to use tobacco and is a sin also to cultivate it. A great many good men, better than I claim to be, use it with an easy conscience. It comforts the toil-worn and the care-worn. Who can say that in thousands of cases it does not meet a want that would otherwise seek more harmful methods of relief? Let him who *abuses* this or any other gift answer to his own conscience and his own Master, but let the young and vigorous and light-hearted bear in mind that they can find no sufficient reason or excuse for the use of this or any other stimulant; with such, I think, all use is abuse.

I am lead off into this moral train of thought by finding it in our Northern agricultural journals, often put prominently forward, and still oftener working unconsciously in the minds of those who write upon the subject. Many well meaning folks, being assured that both the use and the supply for use are mere wickednesses, go about to write down the cultivation by all available arguments, and often write themselves down very ignorant of the subject.

A notable and ever recurring objection to the crop is the ruin it works upon the soil. The worn-down Southern fields are always pointed to for ocular proof. Tobacco has been a great Southern staple, and Southern lands have been very much

worn down, therefore tobacco is very ruinous to land. It would not trouble a logician much to detect the fallacy of such an argument, but people generally are not logical, and therefore take the proof down without much difficulty. It is pretty well settled, therefore, except with the few whose interests have led them to use their own eyes, that tobacco is very destructive of the fertility of the soil.

But to take away a'l excuse for cavil, chemistry, (as taught by *The Boston Journal of Chemistry*, which all the Boston papers say is very high authority,) comes to the support of the ocular demonstration, and shows us that so much potash and phosphate, and whatever else a soil ought to contain is used up by this crop, that we wonder almost where our poor lands ever got so much. We have not at hand the paragraph which a year or so ago was passed around by the journals, showing how a crop of tobacco would consume as much of those leading elements of plant food as would supply four or five crops of wheat and corn. It had its weight no doubt with all who were willing to believe it, but the impression made upon careful observers familiar with the cultivation of these crops, was that the chemist was in this case ignorant of his business, or that chemistry is much less importance in settling a question of this sort than the chemists would have us believe.

The argument from worn out lands is met at once by the fact, that such lands are not tobacco fields, but corn fields. Tobacco, as the more valuable crop, and requiring more labor, has universally almost the best lands of the farm allotted to it, and most of the manure. It is a very unprofitable crop upon poor land. For this reason it is very unusual to find it growing upon land which will not produce after it such a covering of clover or natural grass as will restore the exhaustion caused by the crop. Should it come to this state, new land is provided, or fertilizers are used. The common course, as is well known, has been to clear new lands continually, and to pass over to corn-growing such as fail to be profitable for tobacco. That the wearing process has been begun by tobacco is of course true, but it is as true that if due care had been taken of the land from the point where the tobacco left it, there would have been no such old fields as now disfigure the face of our old States.—The exhausting qualities of the corn crop, but more than that, shallow ploughing, up and down hill ploughing, leaving the corn-rows as channels to wash the soil away, and without grass seeds to make a sod, these have worked the ruin of our lands.

As to the question of direct exhaustion, there are few planters, we think, who planting corn and to-

bacco upon land of the same quality, would not expect a better crop of wheat, grass, or anything else, after the tobacco than after the corn; and such a result will always pass for more than Dr. Nicholls' chemistry.

A correspondent of *Moore's Rural New Yorker*, writing from Greensboro', North Carolina, brings together very fairly the common objections to growing tobacco. He begins: "Although the experiment proves that wheat does well when it follows tobacco, yet the latter is, unquestionably, a violent exhauster. The reasons for wheat succeeding well after it are patent. The land is generally well manured for tobacco, and shows the effect the second year. The ground is well prepared by plough and hoe for tobacco, and all land well broken shows the effect of thorough preparation."

Here it is only asserted, not proved, that tobacco "is a violent exhauster," while it is admitted that "wheat does well after it," because of the manure not being exhausted by the tobacco, and the thorough preparation and cultivation of the ground.

"Again, the grass and weeds are kept down until it is too late for them to attain much growth, and the broad leaves and low plants shade the ground. The suckers which grow up after the main plant is cut afford considerable manure as a green crop, since they are plowed under generally when they are in a green, fresh state." To this he might have added the tops and suckers that are taken off during growth, and the bottom leaves in priming, while the large bulk of stalks which make very valuable manure, should be borne in mind to the credit of the crop. The writer only presents these several items as excuses for the wheat growing so well. It never seems to enter his head that it is proper to use them as offsets to the "violent exhaustion" which he says is "unquestionable."

"Let it be noted that only a very small extent of land can be well cultivated in tobacco—since not more than about eight to fifteen thousand hills, say from two to three acres, can be attended to by one laborer, when the other crops are carried on. Hence in ordinary tobacco farms very limited territory can be put in wheat for tobacco."

Fifteen thousand hills, or three acres, is a small allowance for one hand, but admitting that to be enough, the farmer who with five hands makes on fifteen acres a crop worth eighty to a hundred dollars per acre, with the prospect of a fair crop of wheat after, and the certainty of such a growth of clover or grass as will fully restore the waste of cultivation, may not despair, if not burdened with debt, of improving his condition from year to year. The same force that works his tobacco makes his crops of corn, potatoes and other vegetables, and

does all that is necessary to make his home comfortable.

"But the main effect of the weed' on the farm," the writer continues, "is not to be sought in its influence on the spot that produces it. It is a real despot among the several crops, whenever it is made and sold with success. It is of as precarious a nature in several respects, and is so liable to various injuries at the several stages, from kindling the fire at the plant bed to the final delivery in market, that it is the virtual master of the planter and plantation. In consequence it interferes seriously with the interests of the farm in every other branch. In the winter, when others are cleaning up and making compost or winter plowing, it must be watched, fired, stripped, taken down, hung up, and is sure to be hurt somehow, in the great majority of cases where the attention and handling are not skillful and indefatigable."

There is some force in this objection, it is admitted, but after all the question comes, Does it pay? Does it pay generally, and in the long-run, as we say? The writer answers the question when in the conclusion of his objections he says, "Few who cultivate it do so from choice. They do so because they esteem it the best means of making money."

As to its being "virtual master" of the plantation, that no good manager will allow. The man who is not master of his work, and does not keep it well in hand, is not worthy of the name of manager. It may be exacting and precarious, and may try him sorely sometimes to keep his way with it. There is a moral discipline in all this, and a young man of spirit will not fear to encounter what thousands have encountered before him with success.—It does need good working qualities to make a good planter, but they can hardly be dispensed with in any profitable business.

What remains is, that in large portions of Maryland and Virginia, the tobacco crop, now as much or more than ever, is one of the most profitable we can grow, and in the straits in which we find ourselves it is not desirable it should be abandoned for others of which we know nothing by experience, however much they may promise. There is room, I do not doubt, for great improvement in cultivating and handling our crops. We should make more pounds to the acre by manuring more heavily; we should plant only on such light lands as would ensure good quality, and we should give much more careful attention to sorting and handling.

MARYLANDER.

THE RURAL ALABAMIAN—A monthly agricultural magazine—edited by Mr. C. C. Langdon, and published in Mobile, Ala., is one of the *very* best monthlies published in this or any other country. Try it one year by sending them only \$2. Do it.

Pomological.

PEACH RAISING.

From a report of a committee of one of the New Jersey Agricultural Societies, who visited Delaware, we glean and condense the following in relation to the requisites of peach culture: 1. To prepare thoroughly, clear and enrich the soil for planting. 2. To give plenty of room, or plant 25 or 30 feet apart. 3. Not to shorten in the branches. 4. To do a great deal of work among the trees—plowing, harrowing, cultivating, allowing no grass or weeds. 5. To hunt the borers once a year, in autumn. 6. No raising corn and potatoes except the first three years in the orchard, and then only provided fertilizers are applied. 7. After the third year to plant nothing, but cultivate thoroughly.

The objection to shortening-in the shoots is that it tends to unproductiveness, and the formation of a dense, unyielding head, and increases the difficulty of gathering the fruit. It is obvious that when performed, the necessary thinning in connection with shortening back was omitted. It may be impracticable to do this on a large scale, or in hundred-acre orchards. In some localities this cutting back has been found the easiest way to affect the desired thinning of the fruit—an operation that has tripled the size of the peaches, and tripled their price, in cases which we have known. Cutting back, if properly done, increases the vigor of the trees, and makes the old trees bear the large, fine specimens commonly found only on young trees; yet it may be adapted to amateur culture only, in ordinary practice.

The thorough cultivation was believed by owners to keep the curculios within bounds, and so rapid was the growth imparted to the trees, that orchards only four years old had trees with heads 20 feet in diameter and 15 feet high. The cultivators are broad, reaching nearly half way from row to row, and doing work rapidly.

The varieties preferred are Troth's Early, Early York, Stump the World, Crawford's Early, Old Mixon Free and Crawford's Late. Hale's Early has failed from its liability to rot.

EARLY HARVEST APPLE IN VIRGINIA.

The following letter from Daniel F. Cock, Hampton, Va., was written by a gentleman who harvested one crop of Early Harvest apples in June last, and a second crop in November, from the same tree or trees. Concerning this variety of apple, as grown in Virginia, Mr. Cock says:—"I see during the discussion, at the meeting of the American Pomological Society, held at Richmond, that this variety

was not recommended for cultivation in this State. I append a short statement of my crop for the last five years. I have only an acre of them, which were set out in the winter of 1860; there were about sixty trees set out, full a dozen of which have since died, leaving less than fifty trees. I sold in the year—

1867, 41	bbls.,	which	netted,	clear	of	expense....	\$123.09
1868, 17	"	"	"	"	"	102.20
1869, 54	"	"	"	"	"	109.80
1870, 53	"	"	"	"	"	207.43
1871, 84	"	"	"	"	"	254.54

"This, remember, from one acre. The orchard has been manured broadcast, three times during the five years, which I do not count as expense to be deducted from the price obtained for the apples, as I had it sown with grain and clover for green food for stock, which will pay for all expenses of manuring. This variety may not do as well in other parts of the State; but this, I think, shows that it should not be condemned throughout the State."—*Rural N. Y. Yorker*.

SELECT STRAWBERRIES.

Dr. Hexamer, of Westchester county, N. Y., who has had ample experience with small fruits, gives in the *Horticulturist* the following select and qualified list of strawberries, as adapted to his own locality, and to a wide extent of territory elsewhere:

Early Sorts.—For heavy soil, Nicanor; for light soil, Downer.

Medium or Main Crop.—For heavy soil, Wilson and Charles Downing; for light soils, the same.

Late.—Heavy soil, Triomphe de Gand, Jucunda; light soil, Seth Boyden, Green Prolific.

Latest.—Heavy soil, Napoleon III; light soil, Kentucky.

These are all recommended as valuable for market on account of their firmness. For the home garden the exquisitely aromatic Black Defiance, and the pineapple-flavored Lennig's White, would be added. This list might be modified, but it would be hard to improve it.

REMOVING PAINT FROM WINDOWS.—Inexperienced painters, when painting window-casings and sashes, frequently spatter paint in minute dots over the surface of many of the panes, where it is left until it becomes dry and hard. Neat workmen always have a clean cloth or sponge, which is dipped in a little spirits of turpentine, and the paint is rubbed off before it has dried. After the paint has become dry and hard, strong soap-suds will not remove it without a vast deal of hard rubbing. The most economical way to remove dry paint from the panes is to make a small swab, having a handle some eight inches long, dip it in a little diluted oxalic acid, and rub off the paint with the swab.

THE
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Proprietor.

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BALTIMORE, OCTOBER 1, 1872.

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Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association.—The Rooms of the Society for the present are located at the corner of Charles and Lexington streets, Baltimore, where Farmers and Planters of this and other States are cordially invited to call whenever they may visit the city.

GEO. S. BROWN, *President.*

D. C. TRIMBLE, *Gen'l Secy.*

DEVON CATTLE.—We call the attention of the public to the advertisement of Mr. Brown, in this number of the *Maryland Farmer*, offering for sale Devon Stock. The "Patterson Devons" are more celebrated than any in the United States. The finest and purest bred animals of this splendid breed of cattle are to be found in the herd of Mr. Brown, who purchased the stock of Mr. Patterson, after his death. The Devon is one of our special favorites, and we think particularly suited to the general wants of the farmers of the Middle and Southern States.

The Maryland State Agricultural and Mechanical Association.—We are now fully assured that the coming meeting of the State Society at Pimlico on the 8th inst. will be a great success. The orator, the Hon. Horace Greeley, will draw an immense throng to hear him tell "what he knows about farming." We learn that the display of fine stock from other States will be large. On the last day the important feature will be the sale of Mr. W. T. Walters, Baltimore, of fifteen to twenty head of his splendid Percheron horses. Mr. W. has been induced by public spirited motives alone to embark in this enterprise for the benefit of his fellow-citizens, and it is to be hoped he will not be suffered to sustain individual loss, but by a due appreciation of this very valuable breed of horses, be compensated for his venture, undertaken as it has been solely for the public good. Should these horses fall into proper hands, and their breed extensively diffused through the country, an inestimable amount of profit will result to the farming community.

The city authorities of Baltimore have tendered to Hon. Horace Greeley, orator of the day, the hospitalities of the city, and have appointed a Committee of the City Council, in conjunction with the Mayor, to make arrangements for his reception and entertainment.

Maryland Institute Fair.—The Mechanical Fair of the Maryland Institute will be open from the 1st to the 31st of October, and efforts have been made successfully to make it the most attractive of any that has preceded it, which is promising much. Every person visiting this city during October would be well repaid by a visit to the Institute. It will exceed in interest every other place of public resort in the city, during its continuance. The Institute is in a flourishing condition, and capable of rivaling, with credit to itself, any similar industrial association in the whole country. The evidences of scientific, mechanical genius and skill, offered by this Exhibition, will reflect credit of no small degree upon Baltimore and her enterprising and intelligent craftsmen.

Protection for the Farmers.

In speaking of statutory protection of the farmers against worthless Fertilizers, the *Country Gentleman* expresses views on another subject so fully in accord with what we have before advocated, we give them to our readers, happy to know that our views are so strenuously supported by so distinguished a contemporary: A law which shall license only reputable commission men to do business, compel them to give bonds for honest dealings, and provide penalties and a mode for prosecution in case of swindling, is also much needed by farmers who are obliged to commit their produce to the care of middlemen. Such a law will come in time.

CATTLE DISEASE.

A correspondent writing from Patrick C H., Va., thus describes a disease that is prevailing among the cattle of that neighborhood, and desires that some of our correspondents, who are able, will throw some light on the subject:—

"I have, for two, years, read all on farming that came to hand, and have been taking a stock journal also, hoping to find a description of a disease that prevails here amongst our cattle; it is called the bloody murrain, and also the spring and fall murrain, according to season of attack. In my stock journal the bloody murrain is described as a congestion of the kidneys, and rupture of blood vessels thereof, and the cause, too much green food. I suppose the disease here takes its name from the bloody color of the urine. I have examined carefully all the cattle that have died, and I could reach, immediately after death, hoping to work it out myself. I have come to the conclusion that the disease described in my stock journal is not our disease. There may be a congestion of the kidneys in our disease, for what I can see, but that there is something more I am satisfied: the gall bladder is much extended, and filled apparently with bloody water; the urinary bladder is also considerably extended, and filled with the same colored liquid; the food in the stomach, called the manifold, is hard and dry. I saw a cow that lived fifteen days, and the food appeared dry enough to burn, the liquid in the gall bladder had dried to the consistency of thick tar, and black; when emptied appeared to be grained like wet sugar. The causes suggested for the disease here is eating buds, too much green food, and eating broom sage. From my observation I am at a loss also as to the cause. In the spring those turned upon the common, and who live upon buds and broom sage, die, and those kept in good pastures die. In the summer and first of fall the commons here are poor pastures, still they die; and in good pastures where they get no broom sage they die as bad. The idea that it is for the want of salt and attention will not hold good, because in spring young cattle and oxen are the most liable; in summer and fall it is the milk cows. And it is often remarked, that a mischievous cow has never been known to have the disease, and with the exception of mischievous cows, the disease is the most fatal amongst fat cattle. I am not a writer for papers—the proof is my awkward effort at description. Some papers offer premiums, but if you can work out this disease, and a remedy for it, it will be the best premium you can offer here, and I think I will be able to make up a club without any difficulty."

NOTE.—We should be please to have information in regard to this highly important matter furnished us by any of our readers, who may have any definite knowledge in regard to it, or who may know of any remedy or cure for the disease described by our correspondent.

NEW AGRICULTURAL AND SEED HOUSE.—D. KNOX & Co., (late of R. Sinclair & Co.) have opened a new Agricultural and Seed House, No. 2 Howell's Block, Camden street, near Sharp, Baltimore, where they are prepared to supply every variety of Implement and machine, Seeds, Plants, Fertilizers, &c. Mr. D. Knox has for many years been connected with the old and well known firm of R. Sinclair & Co. We commend them to the farming community. See their advertisement.

For the Maryland Farmer.

STATE OF WEATHER—ROCKBRIDGE FAIR, &c.

Weather continues dry and hot. The spring and water courses are at a lower flow than has been seen for many a summer, if ever, in Rockbridge.—The corn and forage crop much curtailed. Owing to scanty yields of hay, farmers are securing all the corn-fodder they can. Withal they will be obliged to resort to various expedients to carry stock through the coming winter, and if the experiments and experience under this state of things serve to impress them with the importance of economizing and utilizing, the dry season with its short crop may turn out a blessing in disguise, by making *man's necessity to become Nature's opportunity*.

Early potatoes a success. Late, a failure in many parts of the country. Fruit: apples, peaches, pears, and grapes, unprecedented in both quantity and quality. Could only one-half the apples be saved for winter stock feed, the scarcity of forage would in a measure not be felt; but our farmers know nothing of the value of apples in this direction.

Vigorous preparations are making for our Rockbridge Fair, which will be held October 16th, 17th and 18th. A lively competition is anticipated for the liberal premiums on corn, one hundred dollars being offered for the best five acres, and twenty-five for the best single acre. A number of contestants have already signified their intention to make an exhibit of their crop. PETROPONS.

Lexington, Va., September 7th, 1872.

COTTON CROP IN GEORGIA.

The following in relation to the cotton crop in Bibb county, Georgia, we extract from a letter written by an old subscriber at Macon, which does not indicate a very hopeful condition of things in that section:

Money matters are tighter than I have ever known them, but cotton is beginning to come in, and that will put more in circulation. Farmers' prospects are gloomy. Very few planted early—and those who did not, planted just in time to strike the spring drought, and the seed failed to germinate until after the rains set in; comparatively but few of the seed came up, leaving a very bad stand, but the previous heat, with the abundant and warm rains, caused the plant to spring forward, as from a hot bed, and grow with unusual vigor and rapidity; and to one looking out over the cotton fields, they presented one unbroken field of green. But the abundant crop of bolls failed to set—the succeeding unpropitious weather caused much to shed, and last of all comes the caterpillar and the rust, to sweep away almost the last vestige of hope. It is true a crop will be made, but in this section, as far as I have heard from or can see, a very small one, and it will be soon gathered.

As soon as pasture feed begins to fail, give the milch cows succulent corn-fodder,

For the Maryland Farmer.

COLONUS SPEAKS AT LAST.

Having promised an occasional contribution to the columns of your truly useful and valuable periodical, one so well deserving of the countenance and support of the agricultural community, especially of all Maryland farmers and planters, it affords me pleasure to write a few leisure moments afforded by this welcome day of rain, to the "keeping of my word."

At this time I will not devote the brief remarks which I propose to make to any particular subject, but content myself with a running commentary on the contents of your number for the present month.

"*The Poland China or Magie Hog*," commencing article of the number, describing one of the favorite breeds of the genus "Porker," is generally correct in its description of this most valuable variety, and is entirely so in its view of the importance of having the stock of hogs that is to carry the grain of our farmers, particularly the large corn growers of the West, to market, of such breeds as mature early and fatten readily. This is certainly a characteristic of the breed in question. I have seen in Illinois some splendid pens of the Poland-Magie, that would average at from 12 to 18 months of age 300 lbs. and upwards, and this result from no especial care being taken of them.

"*Our Travels*."—Your genial P. P. discovers himself, in the amusing description of his trip from the "Federal City" to the ancient and "finished" village of Upper Marlboro', in the "Lightning Express," with its experienced Jehu and his thoroughbred team, making its fast time of 18 miles in five hours and ten minutes. While it is doubtless true that P. P. thought the time here too fast, having in expectance the good fare of mine host "Gardner," we have an inkling that the lads and lasses who made up the majority of the inmates of the coach would not have grumbled at much slower time being made.

It is gratifying to hear from the observations made during "Our Travels," that the noble old county of Prince George's, the birthplace and home of so many fair dames and brave men, that have heretofore graced and ennobled our good old State, and to whose descendants have been transmitted their beauty and their courage, is enjoying a degree of prosperity that one would scarcely expect when we reflect upon the results of the war. This alone shows the kind of stuff of which her people are made.

"*Caterpillars*."—The mode recommended to destroy these pests of the orchard and lawn appears to be an effectual one; it certainly is easily applied.

The article is a timely one, as I notice in my rides that these pests are abundant, both in fruit and ornamental trees.

"*To Young Farmers*."—The advice given in this article by Land Mark, (whom I take to be the monument which marks the beginning of a good farm,) to the young farmer is both timely and judicious. If the farmers of Maryland, both young and old, do not farm "high" by a proper system of cultivation, and the judicious application of manures, they had better dispose of their farm to the highest bidder, and seek some other pursuit.

"*Farm Work for September*."—Here we have the memoranda of work necessary to be performed at this important season of the year; and the hints and suggestions in reference to the operations of the farm are both judicious and appropriate, and are certainly of great value as reminders to us farmers of what we ought to do, and the proper way of doing it.

"*Garden Work for September*."—The same remarks made in regard to Work on the Farm are equally applicable here.

"*Cowing's American Driven Well*."—Probably a valuable water drawer in some soils, but how about localities where it would be apt to encounter an ugly customer in the shape of a strata of primitive formation? In the alluvial soils of the West, or even of our own State, it probably would answer a desirable purpose.

"*Notes, Clippings and Comments*."—Collections from the different agricultural journals, and the Monthly Report of the Department of Agriculture. It is to be regretted, as you observe, that more attention is not given to the details of cultivation, character of soil, season, &c., by the parties who furnish these statements of crops.

Speaking of crops, the best oats, judging from the appearance in the stack, that I have seen this season were those in a field near Oakland, Alleghany county, which had just been cut, and it was then the first of this month, September. The "Glade" country of Allghany is, however, as you aware, celebrated for its fine oats; these, and the products of the dairy, (who has not heard of the delightful nutty flavored "Glades butter,") and its excellent and juicy Mountain mutton, are the principal agricultural products of the high mountain plateau. Digressing for a moment from agriculture, let me speak one word of the true enjoyment that the "dweller on the tide" has in his power, if—that most important proviso—he has the means, to leave his lowland home, about the time the heats of July begin to enervate even the most stalwart, and betake himself to some of the delightful retreats in the mountains of Western Maryland, far preferable to the tide water region, as being

more of a radical change than the sands and mosquitoes of Cobb's Island, Cape May, or any other seacoast watering place.

At present, Oakland is, of all our mountain resorts, the one most patronized, and if a pure, invigorating climate in which the mid-day heat is tempered by a refreshing breeze, and the nights are such as ensure quiet and undisturbed repose; fare fresh, wholesome and appetizing; society exclusive, it is true, to presumption and vulgarity, but refined and open to all whose character may be without reproach, and who by their deportment as ladies or gentlemen will make them congenial associates. If all these favored privileges constitute a spot on which to wait "through summer's heat for autumn frost," Oakland certainly possesses them in a high degree. As to its field amusements, I must refer you to one of our most learned Judges of the Court of Appeals, whose genial and courteous bearing, blended with the dignity due the ermine, makes him so deservedly popular, and who, throwing off the judicial harness, and being a zealous disciple of that old piscator, Isaac Walton, each summer seeks in the clear and rapid mountain streams in its vicinity, the "salmo fon tircles," and in the broader and more placid Potomac, the "grystis nigricans."—Why is it that so many of our distinguished legal gentlemen should be such ardent fishermen? Is there any affinity between a hungry fish biting at a tempting bait, and a hungry client tempted with the assurance that his case was a good one?

But really, I must get back to agriculture. Your remarks in reference to the action of the Culpeper authorities in reference to "*Tree Planting*," are well worth deep consideration; the annual loss to the country by the terribly unwise destruction of our forests is incalculable, and the sooner the attention of the Government is directed to devising some means of promoting and encouraging the growth of forest trees, the better for every interest of the country.

"*Millet and Scotch Kale*."—One a very good substitute for hay, in times of scarcity, and the other a mighty palatable adjunct to a boiled jowl in the spring of the year. What say you, P. P., am I not right?

"*Among the Berry Fields of New Jersey*."—The Wilson is a most excellent early blackberry; for a later berry the Kittatinny is a very desirable variety. I have the Conover Colossal Asparagus, but owing to the severe drought this spring, it, nor the other varieties did not reach the size "colossal."

"*Jakobb Dunk Papers*."—I cannot add anything to the very apt remarks you make editorially in respect to these admirable papers. I wish all the "Jakobb Dunks" in the land, and their name is legion, could have the opportunity, and would embrace it, of reading them.

I would continue these comments, but I find that I have written more now than you will probably have space for, and will therefore conclude this "special contribution" by a remark which I know will be properly appreciated. It is this, enclosed you will find \$3, for two years' subscription to the *Maryland Farmer*. Let all delinquents follow suit.

Your well wisher,

COLONUS.

THE DRYING OF GRAIN.

To the Editors of the *Maryland Farmer*:

I observed in the "*Baltimore Sun*" of yesterday, an enquiry from the West, as to why it is, that so much grain is damaged in the process of shipping to Europe, and the answer given is, that grain is not sufficiently dry, and then adds: "If damp corn could be kiln-dried, so as not to injure the grain, but at the same time to extract the surplus moisture, and so bring it into unexceptionable condition for foreign export, it would be more readily taken by shippers."

The finest Holland gin is made from rye imported into Holland from Esthonia on the Baltic sea, which is one of the Baltic Provinces of Russia, and the secret of the great value of the rye for the manufacture of Holland gin, is supposed to be in the mode and manner of drying. Every estate has a drying house, and the rye, or as it is there called "corn," is spread upon floors, and then dry heated air is let in to the house, and thus all the moisture is extracted from the grain. The grain is not roasted, nor is it placed upon a heated floor, but simply upon a board floor, and then the whole building raised to the same temperature by heated air. Thus you will see that all the rye, and each side of the grain is subjected to the same amount of heat, and the result is as before stated, all the moisture is removed from the rye; and this grain is greatly desired in Holland, for the manufacture of gin.

BALTIMORE, Aug., 28th, 1872.

The above instructive communication was received early last month from a professional gentleman, who resided many years in Europe as an American Consul, and now holds a prominent position among the officials of Baltimore city.

PIPES FOR CONVEYANCE OF WATER.—In laying pipes, the following directions are not unimportant: The mouth, both for ingress and egress, should be trumpet-shaped; bends should be as far as possible avoided, and especially sharp angular bends; at junctions, the smaller pipe should be brought round in a curve to agree in direction with the main; and lastly, where a pipe rises and falls much, air is apt to collect in the upper parts of the bends, and thus reduce the section at that part, and it is therefore advisable to make provision, by a cock or otherwise, for draining it off at intervals.

For the Maryland Farmer.

TO YOUNG FARMERS.—No. X.

Make Home Attractive—It will be More Pleasant and Profitable—to Family as well as Guest.

There is no class of business community which more deserves to enjoy a large share of true happiness than the agricultural class; and there is none whom I more earnestly wish should have pleasant homes and enjoyments, to the fullest measure.—And there is no other calling which possesses so broad a sphere and so many resources for true happiness as farmers. First, there business is most promotive of health and vigorous life, and *they* are essential elements to happiness. Second, they are more independent of others, in there sphere of operations; and always have, at their hands, the best and freshest food and fruits. Third, they have fewer disturbing, carking cares, with more serenity and certainty of life and prosperity; and many more advantages, peculiar to the farmer might be named, but the above are sufficient; then there are less temptations to vice.

The chief object of this article is to point out some of the sure means of making the *farm-home attractive*, and its occupants happy and contented, to a large extent; so that they will be pleased to remain at it; and so that the growing-up youth will not be so generally disposed to leave home.

First, external adornments, such as lawns, shrubbery, flowers, and some taste in selecting the location for buildings and the style of constructing them; so that the eye will rest pleasantly on the scene; so that the better taste of the mind will be enlisted with satisfaction; and the ingenuity will be engaged with delight, securing all. Exercising the tastes and system of landscape effects, in a farm-home, need *not*, in the least, increase the costs of farm labor, nor diminish its effectiveness; while it *will* enlarge the higher order of enjoyments, and really enhance the value of property, and render it more saleable. Shade trees, green lawns, flowers, and nice fences around the home, will always arrest the attention of persons of taste and intelligence and excite their admiration; so that they would be more ready to buy at liberal price; while the owner and his family will all be more happy and have more pride and true self-respect for their position, than if the place be bleak and bare, without a shrub or flower; a sand or clay bank, with rickety fence, and the additional ornament of a pig-pen near the gate or door, as is often the case; a scene, altogether, which excites the ridicule and scorn of the passer-by or visitor; and be the land ever so good, and the location fine, persons of taste will go further before purchasing. A hint on this point should be enough.

Second—above I have particularly had mind on

the natural shade trees which should be left, when clearing off the home-site. To that, I will add, that some variety of ornamental trees and shrubbery should be set out early, to be growing; if seasonably and thoughtfully attended to, the cost will be small compared to the benefit; and as it takes time for these things to grow, they cannot be too soon transplanted to the home-grounds. In this connection, the orchard and small fruit bushes are not to be forgotten as an auxiliary to the highest happiness; and helps much to make up the sum total, in which all the members may share, and take pride in.

Third—making everything convenient and comfortable *inside*; not expensive, but neat and appropriate—pictures, books, papers, little ornaments—not gaudy carpets, curtains, and furniture; but such little things of nature and art, as please and cultivate the love for the pure and beautiful; particularly, such as will be joyous and delightful to the females of the household—the wives and daughters—who are necessarily required to remain confined more at home, than the fathers and brothers; and consequently they should have their surroundings made as pleasant and attractive for their enjoyment, as possible, to relieve their monotony, and give them variety in midst of their daily and irksome routine duties; their homes should be made happy.

Fourth—papers and books, of right and varied character, embracing scientific subjects interesting to the farmer, and useful to his calling, should occupy considerable and prominent place in the means of home-happiness and attraction, for both old and young; a tenth part the expense paid for books and papers, that is usually paid to decorate a parlor with costly furniture, would afford vastly more and higher enjoyments to all the members, and result in more pecuniary as well as mental benefit. Lavish expenditures and evidence of wealth, are not necessarily evidence of taste, or intelligence, or happiness; costly trappings are not evidence of refinement, any more than gaudy paint on a fence or rock, is evidence of fine grain or rare gems underneath. But, a careful adaptation to circumstance, and judicious regard for the fitness of things, are what really give delight and evince good taste—and command real respect.

A proper and elevated employment of the mind, and its various faculties, are what afford delight; reading and thinking and studying as to the best way of doing any branch of business, reduce the drudgery and confers intellectual charm to every occupation—mind enables muscle.

Fifth—suitable amusements, games, festivities, sociabilities, where all can be happy, help to make home attractive.

LAND MARK.

For the Maryland Farmer.

WOODLAWN FARMER'S CLUB—SALT.

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

The September meeting of "Woodlawn Farmer's Club" was a highly interesting one, and elicited instructive discussion on several important topics.

The meeting was held at the residence of Daniel Smith, Collingswood, Va., and was called to order by C. Gillingham, President, and minutes read by N. W. Pearsons, Secretary. Several members brought fine fruits, which made a handsome show on the tables.

One question—Is *salt* absolutely necessary for the health of stock? Some members maintained that it was unnecessary—and that stock, horses and and cattle, were often known to thrive in the best manner for years without a particle of salt; and that human beings were better without it; that the taste and need were only artificial and acquired—and not normal. The majority insisted on the necessity for the free use of salt, for man and beast. The subject is worthy of study and trial.

Another question—Is the *smut*, which grows on corn, poisonous, or injurious, to animals which eat it? The majority of members contended that it is poisonous and injurious—and that all mildew and musty stuff are, injurious to stock; while some members has known stock to eat the smut without bad effects. But all intelligent authors maintain smut, mildew, and all stuff of the kind, in hay or grain, is detrimental to animals, although when very hungry they will eat it, rather than starve.

Another—Will *salt-brine* rid *seed wheat* of the fine *smut* on the kernel, and prevent its growth in succeeding crops? Several members asserted that it certainly will, if properly done; that is, make a strong brine, stir the wheat in it for a few minutes, skim off the fowl stuff—stir again and skim; then roll the wheat in fine lime or ashes, to dry for planting; it will come up and grow even and faster, and be free of smut and insect larvae. A few members doubted its usefulness, in this respect.

Another—When is the proper time to sow *winter wheat*—early or late? On this subject opinions were various, some having got good crops from sowing in November; but these were exceptions; the large majority were in favor of early sowing as uniformly producing best results. Most also advocated *tree mulching* or *top-dressing*, with manure or muck, or litter, as preventive against *winter killing*, and to secure vigorous growth.

Many said this top-dressing in the fall, was not properly understood, nor fully appreciated; as all who had tried it found that there was no winter killing from heaving by freezing and thawing,

it also gives a better growth in the spring; some had been able thereby to raise good crops of winter wheat, where otherwise the heaving-out was so great it could not be done. Others had obtained much longer yield of hay from meadows by top-dressing them in autumn; they came forward earlier in the summer, and gave better swath at second mowing; top-dressing after first mowing was recommended as beneficial, by preventing hot sun from drying and scorching ground and roots where laid bare by mowing—which evaporates and greatly injures land and grass, if not top-dressed—it also increases yield.

Another question—Is *broad cast* sowing of wheat as good as *drilling*? Answered, generally, in the negative, and earnestly in favor of drill planting.

Again—Is *salt* a valuable fertilizer? Several answered in affirmative, stating that it is highly valuable, sown on wheat and meadows in the autumn, or in early spring; and so general and firm is this feeling in favor of salt, that it was urged and recommended that Congress be appealed to, at the earliest day, to remove all tax or tariff from that article, so necessary in farming—and we say amen, vigorously. D. S. C.

MEASURING BOXES.

A correspondent at Harrisonburg, Va., writing to us on another subject, adds the following. The tables alluded to were sent us by a correspondent, and were published without giving them a personal test:

I had occasion for making a box that would hold a bushel for measuring lime. To ascertain the dimensions I referred to the November No. of the *Maryland Farmer*. The "Table of Measures," page 334, gave me the following: "A box 26 inches by 15½, and 8 inches deep, will contain a bushel." Upon calculation I found such a box would contain almost exactly 1½ bushels. I examined the other measures, except the barrel, and found the inaccuracies so great, that I imagine your subscribers have fallen into serious mistakes, if they have used the measures there described.

Below I furnish you the result of my calculations, which you can dispose of as seems best to you. The legal bushel, the *Winchester*, contains, if I am correctly informed, 2150 42-100 cubic inches. The Imperial British bushel contains 2218 192-1000 cubic inches. My calculation is on the basis of the former, as the one adopted by the U. S. Government, and while the following are only approximations, yet they are as close as can be conveniently made for practical farmers to turn carpenters upon, and sufficiently so for measuring where precise accuracy is not necessary.

A Bushel	15x12x12-2150 c. i.	Legal measure	2150 42-100
† " 17½x15½x8-2153½	" " "	" " "	" " "
½ " 12x11½x8-1080	" " "	" " "	1075 21-100
Peck 8x8x8½-535	" " "	" " "	537 3-5
Gallon 8x8x4 3-16-268	" " "	" " "	268 4-5
½ " 8x4x4 3-16-134	" " "	" " "	134 2-5
Quart 4x4x4½-68	" " "	" " "	67 1-5

† More accurate, but a less convenient shape.

For the Maryland Farmer.

THE POTOMAC FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

This Association, which held its 3d Annual Exhibition of Fruits on the 2d and 3d of September, in Washington, is of growing importance. It already embraces some of the best professional and practical talent in the country, and is located in one of the finest regions for successful and profitable fruit culture. If the country about Washington produces fifty times the amount of fruit it did five years ago; if fifty pounds of fruit is used in Washington where one was used five years ago; if the fruit is of far better quality, and at half the price, to this Association, and the zealous advocates of fruit culture who were its originators and promoters, belongs a great part of the credit. In the address of the President of the Association, J. H. Gray, it was shown that there need be little fear of overstocking the market. The demand keeps pace with the supply. If the market is filled, it overflows to other markets. New processes of canning and drying are constantly introduced, and now comes the exportation of fresh fruit to Europe. We can quiet the Englishman's grumble about the verdict of the Board of Arbitrators, by sending over a few hundred shiploads next year of fresh peaches and pears. And we put money in our pockets. An abundance of good fruit will do much to hasten the millenium. There are few occupations so pleasant and profitable as the *careful cultivation of fine fruits*.

On the tables of the Potomac Fruit Growers' Association Exhibition were over fifty varieties of pears, nearly as many of apples, over forty varieties of grapes, and twenty of peaches. These estimates are made very low, as they are not based upon actual count. The exhibitors were the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Saul, of Washington, Chalkley Gillingham, of Mount Vernon, to whom the South is indebted for many new varieties of apples, and D. O. Munson, of Falls Church, for professionals. Wm. H. Clagett had the finest amateur collection. Besides these there were choice collections from a score of others.

For varieties of fruit the most noticeable were:

Apples—Summer Pearmain, Gloria Mundi, Fall Pippin, Gravenstein, Albermarle Pippin, Wine, Winesap and Roxbury Russet.

Pears—Duchesse d'Angouleme, Bartlett, White Doyenne, Howell, Josephine de Malines, Seckel and Vicar of Winkfield.

Peaches—Oldmixon, free and cling; President, Morris White, Susquehanna Smock's, George Fourth, and a new seedling, the Woodlawn Cling, very large, yellow.

Grapes—Concord, Delaware, Ives, Catawba and Roger's Hybrids.

HOLLYWOOD.

AGRICULTURAL PREMIUMS.

In most of the Programmes of the Agricultural Fairs, and especially in that of the Georgia Fair, we notice what we deem a great error. They offer, Diplomas, Bronze Medals, or small sums of money for the best article of its class of costly, heavy machinery which has taxed the ingenuity of man to invent, and taxed heavily the pocket of the manufacturer to produce and to transport, perhaps hundreds of miles to the place of exhibition, when a lady's dress, pair of cuffs, piano cover, jar of preserves, &c., are rewarded with a much larger premium—\$100 premium for the largest product on ten acres, and a diploma for the Thrasher or Drill, or Stump Extractor. To obtain the first, the land worker has but to get a few neighbors to measure the land and product, get a certificate and his expense is at an end; the manufacturer must pay heavy freight and drayage bills, expenses of a man who is a machinist to show the implement, and perhaps incur expenses of team to work it. We like to see premiums offered to stimulate the farmer to experiment with a view to raising large crops on small areas, and we are decidedly in favor of encouraging female skill and industry, and offering inducements to our lady friends to perfect themselves in household economies, but we do think other than little Medals and Paper Certificates should reward that enterprise and genius, which invents and puts in practical use, machinery which supplies manual labor and contributes so largely to the means of lessening human toil, adding to the comforts of the human family, and is in fact the great impetus to all Agricultural progress. We say this in no capitious fault-finding spirit, but with an earnest wish to help our friends, (in what we feel sure they desire,) to render, by a popular course of measures, their association, as useful and attractive as possible, so as to confer the "greatest good on the greatest number" of intelligent, thoughtful, enquiring practical tillers of the soil.

Fine Yield of Wheat in Rockbridge County, Va.

The *Lexington Gazette* records the following as evidence of what can be produced by careful cultivation, and the quality of the Rockbridge lands:

"Mr. J. H. Laird, of Kerr's Creek, had the present year a field of wheat containing 32 acres and 35 poles, which gave him 30 bushels and 25 lbs. per acre of as fine wheat as ever went to the mill.—Sixteen acres and twenty-five poles of the bottom land in the field produced over 37 bushels per acre, and another ten acres and two roods produced 303 bushels, or 28 85 bushels per acre.

"From another part of the county we hear of two farmers who harvested this year over thirty bushels of wheat the acre."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

It is always a grateful duty to acknowledge the kind offices of our neighbors, but particularly so when editorial courtesies, and approving kindnesses are extended by the distinguished journalists of both the daily and weekly Press of our own city. We have of late been the recipients of such acts of courteous encouragement from nearly all the Baltimore Press, for which we are sincerely thankful, and especially for the last one—a sprightly, humorous review of the *Maryland Farmer* by the popular *Saturday Night*. It was somewhat personal, but its personalities we confess were nearly true. What is said of our "handsome S. S. Mills," truth compels us to admit the "soft impeachment" as to the "handsome," and also as becomes a "Farmer" he does seem to take pleasure in cultivating "Kane," and it may be with ulterior motives of profit, but he has not been "gallivanting" in political pastures, though he has sported in the Elysian fields of Northern tourists. The Associate Editor did try to keep cool, and found it "dogged" hard in the fervid heat of the dog-days to wield his "little goose quill," even in a feeble way, yet he was buoyed up weekly by a pleasant, jolly "*Saturday Night*," in the company of the genial "*Baltimorean*," who always brought an amusing "*Telegram*."

Herendeen & Van Dusen's Descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Vines, Roses, &c., Geneva, N. Y. It is well illustrated, and embodies excellent suggestions to the tree planter, and any one desirous to adorn a lawn with handsome trees and shrubbery.—Their specialty seems to be the Marengo Winter Siberian Apples, which seem to be a remarkable new variety of apple, suited to Northern latitudes, and originated at Marengo, Ill., hence their name. They are said to have several superior qualities, and to be much sought after, being highly approved by distinguished horticulturists and nurserymen. They seem to be chiefly distinguished for long keeping; beauty and good qualities as a dessert fruit, surpassing the splendid French Pomme de Api.

Our thanks are due to the publishers for a copy of Geo. P. Rowell & Co.'s N. Y. "American Newspaper Directory," containing a complete list of all newspapers and periodicals published in the United States, Canada, &c., with short descriptions of the towns in which they are published. It is a work of great value to all who desire to advertise extensively, or for a specific object.

GRAPE.—Our thanks are due to Messrs. G. P. Peterson & Co., Fruiterers, on Pratt Street, for a superior lot of Concord and Delaware grapes. They obtain their fruit fresh from the growers in the country, and they are usually as fine as any to be had in the market.

BRIGGS & BRO.'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE OF HARDY BULBOUS FLOWERING PLANTS—Rochester, N. Y., as usual with these gentlemen, presents a neat pamphlet filled with fine illustrations, and useful hints and directions about the cultivation of flowers. Their Lilly Chromo for 1872 is superb, and would not be out of place on any parlor wall.

Constitution and By-Laws of the Southern Maryland and District of Columbia Agricultural and Mechanical Society.

Richardson & Vail's Descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Vines, &c., Geneva, N. Y.

Dreer's Descriptive Catalogue of Bulbs and other Flower Roots, Chesnut Street, Philadelphia.

A beautiful Chromo from "*Farm and Fireside*," which that excellent journal offers as a premium to its new subscribers. Published in New York, at \$1 per year.

☞ The Maryland Farmer is only \$1.50 a year.

VIRGINIA STATE FAIR.—The Premium List for the coming meeting of this association is very liberal. We regret that an error occurred in our list of State Fairs last month in regard to this important State Fair. It holds its meeting at Richmond on the 29th, 30th, 31st of October, and the 1st day of November it closes.

We have received a neat pamphlet containing the Rules, Regulations and Premium List of the First Annual Fair of the Piedmont Agricultural Society, to be held at Culpeper, Virginia, on the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th of October, 1872. We hope its success will meet the most sanguine expectations and hopes of our Virginia friends of that fine region.

We are indebted to the Officers of the Huntsville, Alabama, Agricultural and Mechanical Association for a complimentary ticket to their Fair, to be held on October 16th and continue four days. It is the first annual Fair, and we hope it may prove an encouraging success.

From Mr. J. Fuller, the Schedule of Premiums of the Rockbridge Fair, to be held October 16th, 17th and 18th, at Lexington, Va. A notice of which is taken by our correspondent "Petropon," in another column of this issue of the *Farmer*.

W. S. Bird, Esq., Secretary of the Agricultural and Mechanical Association of West Alabama, has sent us the Premium List of that Society, and extended to us a cordial invitation to accept the courtesies of the occasion at Eutaw, on the 22d–26th days of this month. We return our thanks, and hope our Southern friends will have a pleasant and profitable meeting.

Received the Premium List of the Augusta County Fair, to be held at Staunton, Va., on the 15th, 16th and 17th of October. One notable and praiseworthy feature, which might be well followed by other associations, is the liberal amount of Premiums offered for practical essays on various subjects connected with agricultural pursuits. The essays to be founded mainly on the experience and observation of the writer.

The Premium List of the North Carolina Agricultural Society, to be held at Raleigh, on October 15, 16, 17 and 18, 1872.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS IN VIRGINIA.—The Agricultural Fairs in Virginia this year will commence as follows:

Wythville, Oct. 9, Southwest Virginia Agricultural Society.

Boydton, Oct. 15, Mecklenburg Agricultural and Mechanical Society.

Lexington, Oct. 16, Rockbridge County Fair.

Newbern, Oct. 16, Pulaski Agricultural and Mechanical Society.

Petersburg, Oct. 22, Petersburg Agricultural Society.

Norfolk, Oct. 22, Virginia and North Carolina Agricultural Society.

Danville, Oct. 22, Border Agricultural Society.

Leesburg, Oct. 29, Loudoun Co., Agricultural Society.

Richmond, Oct. 29, State Agricultural Society.

STATE FAIRS 1872.

Georgia.....	Atlanta.....	Oct. 14–19
Maryland Institute.....	Baltimore.....	Oct. 1–30
Maryland.....	Baltimore.....	Oct. 8–12
New England.....	Lowell.....	Oct. 3–12
North Carolina.....	Charlotte.....	Oct. 22–26
St. Louis A. & M. Ass'n.....	St. Louis.....	Oct. 3–12
Virginia.....	Richmond.....	Oct. 29–Nov. 1
Farmers & Mech. Ass'n.....	Goldsboro N. C.....	Oct. 22–25

The Glory.—By Dr. Geo. F. Root, is the title of the latest music book issued. It is full of new, useful, interesting, and attractive features. The music is all fresh, and so arranged as to be peculiarly adapted to singing schools, conventions and church choirs. Published by John Church & Co., Cincinnati. Specimen copy sent, post-paid, \$1.25.

Live Stock Register.


BREAKING STEERS TO THE YOKE.

The *Farmers' Home Journal*, Lexington, Ky., thus discourses on this important subject—to which we beg to call special attention :

This is a kind of work that but few farmers have any very great fondness for, and yet like much other labor it is important and must be performed. To do it right then, in the least time, with less vexation to the man, and less punishment to the animals, is what we should all desire to know.

It has been found a very successful plan to break the steers, and, say, before they are quite two years old. First get them into a small enclosure in the yard, so strongly put up that they cannot readily break it down: feed them some corn, handling them gently, and talking quietly so as to re-assure them. It is often possible by this means to get them yoked before they are fully aware of what is going on; when this is done it may be well to give them a little more corn, and quiet them as much as possible. Then unyoke them, after having made them fast, and permit them to feed a little while. This operation in detail can be repeated next day, morning, noon and night, bearing in mind to give them corn from time to time, so as to quiet them, and render them contented. On the morning of the third day they may be taken out and put in the lead; handle them gently all the time, in the morning or evening, and never allow yourself to be provoked into passion; yoke and unyoke them frequently, so as to accustom them to your presence and the touch. If they seem dull and obstinate, show your superiority by maintaining your temper and feeding them corn, and by kindness and patience striving to let them know what is required of them. Few animals are so hopelessly dull that patience, tact and kindness will not in time lead them to understand and do what is wanted.

They can soon be driven alone, and this should be done as early as it can be done successfully, for this is an essential part of their breaking. A light sled may be used, and they will haul enough to feed them, and more, and in a very short time it will be found that they will be useful. We think it very greatly aids to render them tractable if corn is given them on being yoked; by this means their confidence is gained, and gentle handling and patience will accomplish thoroughly the remainder of the work, which, thus performed, is rendered less unpleasant than it would be if blows, and shouts, and curses, were the arguments employed to render them serviceable.

 Send \$1.50 for the "Maryland Farmer."

HEREFORD CATTLE.

The Herefords are believed to have descended from one of the aboriginal species of British cattle. Being a distinctly pure breed, their principal characteristics of color and form are transmitted very closely from generation to generation. Their distinguishing marks are white faces and breasts, horns of medium length, a brownish-red color generally, large size, almost in this approaching the Short Horns, an athletic and active form, and a general neatness of figure. Their native locality, the County of Hereford, in England, is one well adapted to produce such a race of stock, and cause them to retain their distinguishing peculiarities.—The surface of the country is varied by hills and swells, the soil is rich, and affords excellent pasture, and good crops for soiling and stall-feeding. These features would necessarily tend to perpetuate such qualities in the stock raised there as are found in the Herefords. The purposes for which Herefords are bred are mainly beef and the yoke. To raise a good healthy calf and give it a stout frame, with good bone, that will make a serviceable working ox, and eventually carry flesh sufficient to make him a profitable feeder, is the great aim of breeders of this description of stock. The dairy is not considered as an object of profit. Milk enough to raise the calf properly is of course necessary; further than this is not expected of a Hereford cow. In fact, this county imports its butter and cheese from other districts. And here is seen how great an influence on the character of the stock is exerted by the peculiarities of the country which it inhabits. The soil of this locality is found to be unfavorable to cheese, and the milk from a Cheshire cow, fed in Herefordshire, though only fifty miles distant from its native home, is found to contain less curd and make a poorer cheese. This influence, to some extent, has produced a peculiarity in the Hereford cattle which is an attribute of the breed. It is therefore only as working cattle and for beef that they stand in an eminent position. Crosses on native stock are often found to make very good cows and steers, which are excellent workers and good feeders. At the Ohio Exhibition of 1871 there were exhibited some very choice specimens of this breed, which showed that the rich pastures of that State were eminently adapted to them. They will be more at home in a rolling, moderately hilly country than the Short Horns, and will thus supply a need in the list of various breeds fitted for the purposes of American agriculture, which has already been seriously felt.—*American Agriculturist*.

The *Rural Home* has cured catarrh in chickens by giving three kernels of black pepper every other morning before feeding.

NOTES, CLIPPINGS and COMMENTS.

BY THE EDITORS.

We give below the recipe used by Mr. J. C. Lary, for making a fine Apple wine. As we have been asked for it by several persons of late, we would advise our friends to preserve it, for future reference and use:

Sixty pounds of brown sugar, one pound of sulphate of lime put into pure sweet cider from the press enough to fill a 40 gallon barrel, leave the bung out 48 hours, bung it up and leave a small vent until fermentation wholly ceases. It should be kept in a cool place. When it has ceased to ferment it is ready for use. The longer it stands on the better it is.

In connection with this subject we here insert again this excellent suggestion, or "Hint," which was included in the article on wine making, last month, and taken from the *Farm and Fireside*.

A USEFUL HINT.—"A tin tube made like a syphon, driven into the vent of a barrel of wine or cider, and the other end inserted into a vial of water, will prevent the air from entering the barrel, while the gas escapes through the water. Make the barrel otherwise tight. When the cider or wine in the barrel is done working, the water in the bottle will cease bubbling. It requires no filling up, as there is no loss. I have tried it." We will only add that it can be made by any tin-plate worker, and when once made can always be kept for future use.

PICKLING CUCUMBERS.

We take the following from *The Country Gentleman*, and as it is the method we pursued some years ago and found it answer our purposes admirably, we can confidently recommend it. By this process, as simple as it is, a family can at all times be supplied with fresh made cucumber pickles, or large quantities sent to market at seasons of the year when they command a good price, and when the farmer has more time to attend to the putting in market and selling this desirable and universally popular pickle. They can always be sold either as salted or pickled cucumbers. The salt somewhat extracts the green coloring of the fruit, but it can be restored by covering them with green corn blades and cabbage leaves and pouring over it hot brine. Some use vitriol, or scald them in a brass kettle, but it is not wholesome and we would prefer less green, with the surety of their being wholesome, than run any risk for appearance sake: "They may be preserved some months in brine, or for years if put down in salt alone. Rinse all dirt from them without rubbing, pack in suitable barrels, and cover with brine which will bear up a potato, made from best salt dissolved in water. To keep them for years, lay them down in salt the same as you would pork, using salt freely; they will make their own brine. When wanted for use take out what

is necessary, and soak them first in warm and then in cold water, for a week, or until they are freshened sufficiently; put them in the pickle tub or jar, and pour over them boiling cider vinegar, with spices added to taste, and cover; let them remain two or three days, and they will be fit for use."

FROM THE FRENCH PAPERS.

The following translation from French journals, have been sent to us by a Professor, to whose kindness and polite attention we have been heretofore much indebted for similar favors. The "curious mode of Printing" will be a great convenience and become highly popular with ladies. We do not expect much from the new breed of sheep, but have no doubt the new plant from *Grenada*, will before long no doubt be brought into practical use. If the remedial medicinal qualities of asparagus be such as stated, it will make that already popular vegetable, still more so, and be to the afflicted gourmand, an agreeable means of relief from the tortures of Gout and Rheumatism:

A NEW BREED OF SHEEP.

It is well known what great benefit France received from the introduction of Merino sheep. An experiment of acclimation of a similar nature, is soon to be made at the parc of La Tete d'Or, at Lyons, from which are expected results equally as advantageous. There are expected at the menagerie of this place several specimens of a breed of sheep hitherto unknown in Europe. They gave almost as much milk as goats, and produce, in addition, as much wool as the Marinos; and they furnish as good meat as any now in use.

This rare breed of sheep is to be found only in some of the Cantons of Algeria. An attempt is going to be made to acclimate them in France. The editor of the "*Colon Algerien*," was the first to mention this project and will send the first lot for trial.—*La Bein Public*.

A CURIOUS MODE OF PRINTING.

Mr. Vial, a scientist, engaged in the pursuit and perfecting process of engraving and printing, enables us now to make impressions of monograms, &c., on linen and cotton without the aid of ink. The process is extremely simple and easy, and for this reason it will doubtless come generally into use both in manufactories and private houses. Its cheapness will enable every body to use it, if only for the purpose of marking one's linen.

The plate containing the figure or name must be of zinc, lead or copper. The part of the garment on which the impression is to be made, is dipped into a solution of nitrate of silver and slightly wrung. This done, the plate is applied, and immediately a perfect and indelible impression is made. The part is then washed and the operation is finished.

ed. It is supposed that the impression is the result of some chemical combination, which takes place between the salt of the silver and the metal of the plate. It is for this reason that the plate is required to be of a certain kind of metal. The nitrate being decomposed, the silver is set free and is precipitated under the form of a black powder. This black powder forms the impression, which being the result of chemical action, is very distinct and plain, and likewise indelible, as it resists the action of all alkaline and acetous agents. As the precipitation of the silver only takes place on the contact of the plate and the salt, a part of the latter is left on the fabric, and the final washing intended to wash it out.

The impression is not necessarily black. There is a choice of all the shades between a pure gray and a deep black. The color depends on the strength of the solution and the nature of the metal. In general the more oxygen the metals consumes, the blacker will be the color. All fabrics that can be impregnated with nitrate of silver will receive the impression. Cotton, thread, silk and wool, and likewise paper can be made to receive it. Silk gives the best results. And generally the finer and closer the tissues of the fabric and the more it is wrung without being made dry, the better will be the impression. A slight preparation is favorable. It is necessary to remind those unacquainted with the nature of nitrate of silver, that they should be particular not to allow the solution to dry on their hands, lest, being deceived by its likeness to clear water, they find themselves with black gloves on, which they will not be likely to get off in a hurry.—*La Bein Public.*

A NEW PLANT FROM NEW GRENADA.

Some botanists, it is said, are engaged in trying to acclimate in Europe a plant from New Grenada, which, if the attempts to introduce it are successful, will become a troublesome rival to our manufacturers of ink. It is the *coriaria thymifolia*, or ink-plant. Its juice, to which is given the name of *chanchi*, is of a reddish cast, but after a few hours becomes a deep black; and it can be used without any preparation. The *chanchi* corrodes steel pens less than ordinary ink, and resists better the action of chemical agents and time. It is said that during the time of the Spanish rule, all the public documents were required to be written in this ink, which, if written otherwise, might have been damaged by the action of the sea water.—*La Bein Public.*

ASPARAGUS VS. GOUT AND RHEUMATISM.

A medical correspondent, who is worthy of all confidence, says the *York Courant*, informs us that asparagus considered as a medical agent is not sufficiently known to persons who suffer from rheumatism and gout. Slight attacks of rheumatism

are cured in a few days by adopting this delicious vegetable as a nutriment; and if the disease becomes chronic, the patient will be greatly relieved by abstaining at the same time from all acid in his food and drink.

The Jerusalem Artichoke possesses the same medicinal property. The head is eaten in the ordinary manner; but with the leaves of the stalk is made an infusion which is drank three or four times a day; it is a certain, though not very agreeable remedy.—*La Bein Public.*

TWIN WATERMELON.

The natural curiosity of a twin watermelon was shown us last month. It was huge; each one of large equal size and somewhat elongated with a deep depression showing the juncture. It was perfectly joined together and was when divided, as two perfect melons, united by a white pulp half an inch thick, as sweet to eat as any other part.

STOCK SALES.

Henry A Tayloe, of Mount Airy, Va., has purchased a superior bull and cow of the Ayrshire breed, from Major Wm. B. Mathews, of Md. The latter gentleman has bought the two beautiful and high bred Devon cows advertised in our journal lately by Col. Bowie.

FINE YIELD OF WHEAT.

Mr. W. H. Newman, Chester River, Queen Anne's county, Md., raised last year $40\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of Lancaster red wheat on 27 acres, and the yield has proven to be 33 bushels per acre of fine plump wheat. It was sown with the *drill*. He thinks portions of the ground must have produced over 40 bushels per acre.

A FINE COW.—Major Allison, who resides near Phoenix, Baltimore county, Md., says the *American Farmer*, has made a statement of the butter made from a Jersey cow raised by him, which when a calf came from the herd of Mr. Perine. She has recently had her third calf, and from the 5th of April to the 10th of June she made 100 lbs. 9 oz. of butter. During one month of the time she also furnished cream for the family, the butter from which would have brought up the total to 112 lbs. or very nearly $1\frac{1}{4}$ lbs. a day. Mr. A. also has a heifer which will soon drop her first calf, and which is now giving a good pailful of milk daily. This singular occurrence attracts unusual attention to her, and her udder is frequently greased to soften the glands.

SALE OF JERSEY CATTLE.—By reference to the advertisement of Mr. Walters, it will be seen that in addition to the Pereheron horses, he will offer for sale on the 11th inst., being the last day of the Pimlico Fair, a few superior imported Jersey cattle.

Grape Culture.

THE ALVEY GRAPE.

We have fruited this year, for the first time, a vine of the Alvey, for which we are indebted to the Department of Agriculture, and desire to call the attention of our readers to it as an amateur grape of considerable value. We have met it in former years in some of our Missouri trips, and always heard its quality as a fruit, and its health as a vine commended. Mr. Husman, in one of his reports, mentions its losing its leaves on Southern slopes, and, we presume like other grapes of the *Vitis aestivalis* species, it cannot be grown with much satisfaction in northern latitudes, but with these drawbacks we close our list of objections.

But it has much to commend it. It is an early grape, ripening with the Concord, and of much better quality. It belongs to the summer grape species, and is free from that sour and generally acrid pulp that the unfortunate consumer of Hartford Prolifics and Concord must so often bolt, or have his teeth set on edge, without waiting for his children to suffer for him. It has the lively vinous flavor that renders the Herbemont and other grapes of that class, so much superior to the heavy sweetness of the Delaware. It is also like the rest of its class a more wholesome grape, we think, by virtue of its freedom from unripened pulp, than any of the Fox grapes can be.—*Prairie Farmer*.

MILDEW ON VINES.

From investigations made at the Department of Agriculture, by Mr. Thomas Taylor, who is conducting the microscopic investigations on fungoids, or mildew, we learn that a preparation of carbolic acid soap, used as a wash, is a means of preventing and destroying these minute parasites. A solution of sulphuret of lime or carbolic soap destroys the seed spores. Mr. Taylor found that the grapes might be trimmed ever so closely, still enough of the seed is left to develop rapidly wherever heat was applied sufficient to start them into vegetation. It was found that dry heat developed the European mildew (*Erysiphe Tuckeri*) very rapidly, and that moist heat was favorable to the growth of the American mildew (*Botrytis vilicola*). The trimmings and leaves of vines in grape-houses should be gathered up and burned, and it appears that the vines when trimmed should be washed carefully with the solution of sulphuret of lime and carbolic acid, and thus the spread of mildew may be materially checked.

PREVENTING ROT IN GRAPES.—Dr. A. P. Wyllie, of South Carolina, as we see in the *Rural New Yorker*, prevents bunches of grapes from rotting by enclosing them in paper bags, pinned on, with a pinch of sulphur in each. He thinks the preventive may be applied on a large scale.

The Dairy.

THE SECRET OF GOOD BUTTER.

Every one knows how superior is the reputation of Philadelphia butter, and many have been the attempts to account for it. Perhaps the most popular notion was that it was due to the prevalence of the "sweet vernal grass" in our pastures and hay fields, the grass which often gives so peculiar a fragrance to meadow hay. But it needed very little reasoning to demolish such a theory as this. This grass is one of the poorest for hay or pasture purposes, and scarcely exists, except on cold clay lands, in partially shady places near groves or low woods. Yet, while this grass is the exception, indeed the very rare exception, in low pastures, or in the hay fed to your cows, good butter is the liberal rule in all our markets.

It has long been the opinion of our best agricultural generalizers of facts that we owe much more of the sweetness of our butter to the abundance of springs and spring-houses in our State, than to anything peculiar which grows in our pastures. Milk has a peculiar affinity for any odors in the atmosphere, and water has some; hence, whatever impurities may get into the atmosphere of the spring-house is drawn out by running water, and the very best security is provided against their being absorbed by the cream.

We notice this now through observing an inquiry whether the light of a kerosene lamp in a dairy could possibly affect the quality of the butter; we should answer most decidedly in the affirmative. All odors of every description should be carefully avoided, if the very best brand is desired.

There is one little incident in this reputation of Philadelphia butter which must never be forgotten. The followers of Penn made up a class of our original farming population. With these cleanliness was especially one of the virtues. It was not a mere sentiment that it was "next to godliness," but an every-day testimony in all they did. Aided in these cleanly practices by their numerous springs and spring-houses, we have little doubt we owe to them as much as to any other circumstances the eminent character which Philadelphia butter enjoys; and we believe that if other quarters would give especial attention to these little niceties, as good butter might be had in any part of the Union as here.—*Germantown Telegraph*.

The biggest yield of wheat yet reported was raised at Kaskaskia, Illinois, by Dennis Kavanaugh—46 bushels to the acre.

Maryland State Fair October 8th, four days.

FARMING ON THE EASTERN SHORE, MD.

The following we clip from the *American Agriculturist*:

Thos. G. Reynolds, Talbot county, Md., writes us a very interesting letter on his mode of cultivating the flat, level lands of the Eastern Shore. The soil is a rich, heavy loam, underlaid by a compact clay, which necessitates surface-draining. His rotation is the "three-field system,"—corn, wheat, and pasture—chosen mainly to keep down the blue-grass or wire-grass. The corn is cut and carted off, and the wheat sown and covered with a three-furrowed plow, by which the land is thrown into four-foot ridges, with water-furrows between them. The wheat is harvested with the reaping machine, one wheel running in the furrow, and a four-foot swath is cut. The next year the field is pastured, and then the ridges are reversed for corn, the land being heavily manured for this crop, and none given to the wheat. The corn is sown with the drill, and the furrows between the ridges being cleaned out, the planting is complete. On this system crops are made of 50 bushels of corn, (sometimes 80 bushels,) and 30 bushels (sometimes 50 bushels) of wheat per acre. Now, he asks what is our opinion of this mode of cultivation, and especially if we would recommend underdraining. In reply, we have no fault to find with the system of cropping, believing that certain special rotations are well adapted to certain localities and circumstances.—But, as regards the question of drainage, we should certainly in this case advise underdraining, not only to get rid of the water, but as a means of preventing the rampant growth of grass, which is the chief source of trouble. If there was a soil that needed underdraining this is one, and it is one also which freed from surface water would soon admit of deeper cultivation being gradually brought in. We have known of similar cases in which drainage led to an effectual cleansing of the ground from grass, especially couch-grass, a nuisance equally troublesome as wire-grass. Having some personal acquaintance with the Eastern Shore, we have greater confidence in making this statement than if we only wrote on general principles, knowing that a want of drainage is the great trouble generally in this particular district. With a fine climate, a rich soil, and teeming wealth of luxuries in and on their numerous bays and creeks, and water communication to almost every considerable farm, the farmers of this district yet need one thing—which is drainage.

THE YOUNG FOLKS' RURAL is a novelty among publications for Young People, entirely different from any other in style and character. Cash prizes are given for best "compositions." Write for a specimen number and particulars, which will be sent free. Terms, \$1.50 per year—\$1.00 in clubs of four and more, and every subscriber receives a pair of beautiful chromos as a gift. Splendid premiums to those who form clubs. Address H. N. P. Lewis, Publisher, Chicago.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Southern Magazine for September.—We are gratified to have a literary journal of so high a character published in our midst, and sincerely hope its merits may meet with that support it so richly deserves. We hear it has won golden opinions, and rapidly turning those opinions into gold through its fast increasing list of subscribers. Some of the papers in the late numbers have been very ably written, and nearly all the articles are original and afford pleasant reading. In the September number we have a continuation of "Critical Notes on the French-German War of 1870;" the Great Central Belt of Commerce and Trade; Lord Kilgobbin; Noematozography; Letters from Ancient Rome; the Gettysburgh Campaign; Frauenlob; Relations of the Federal Government to the States—a very able historic argument; Stories, Poetry and Reviews, &c., as its table of contents. We confidently expect this magazine will aid materially in building up the literature of the South. Our people should no longer look to the North to furnish all our magazines and serial light reading, which have so much influence on domestic habits of thought, and tend so greatly to mould social ideas and actions. Baltimore: Murdoch, Browne & Hill, Editors and Publishers—price \$4.

Trout Culture.—Is the title of a neatly gotten up book of 150 pages, from the publishers, George E. Woodward and Orange Judd & Co., New York. This is a practical work on trout culture by Dr. Slack, who is the natural history editor of *Turf, Field and Farm*, and proprietor of the Troutdale Ponds near Bloomsburg, N. J. It must prove of great value to any one who engages in pisciculture, as it is intelligently written and truly practical. The author happily takes as his motto and guide in his essay, the quotation, "We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen."

British Quarterly Review for September, 1872, *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*, September, 1872.

The Farmer's Friend, a little 8 pg. quarto monthly, published at Coleta, Illinois; well filled with useful information to those engaged in rural pursuits.

From the Secretary of the Interior, a report of a visit to the Sioux and Ponka Indians on the Missouri River, made by William Welsh.

From F. B. Jenkins, Superintendent, the Chambersburg Nursery Association's Descriptive Catalogue for 1872, embellished with a colored picture of the Herstine Raspberry.

From M. Johnston, Assistant Secretary, the Premium List and Regulations of the Georgia State Agricultural Society, to commence on the 13th of this month, and continue to the 29th, at Oglethorpe Park, Atlanta, Georgia.

Frederick County Agricultural Fair.

The next Fair of the Frederick County Agricultural Society, will be held on the Fair Grounds, Frederick City, Md., beginning October 15th and continuing four days.—It will, doubtless, be the most interesting ever held by that very successful Association, now so favorably known. That the Frederick County Exhibition possesses unusual attractiveness is evident by the immense attendance of visitors who annually throng the grounds. This is perhaps due in part to the great beauty of its location and surroundings, as well as its successful management. The grounds are immediately in the suburbs of the interesting little city of Frederick, commanding a beautiful view of the fertile and highly cultivated valley. With its great advantages of convenience and ease of access, it will, no doubt, always be a favorite resort. It will be remembered that President Grant and Cabinet visited the Fair two successful years, and that last year Horace Greeley was the orator. Gen. Wade Hampton delivers the annual address this year.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.

A correspondent in the *Practical Farmer* writes from Chester county, Pa., as follows:

"We have tested fully the merits of Hungarian grass this season, and are greatly in favor of it.—Our farmers have generally harvested a crop of two or three tons to an acre, of excellent hay, which is a great thing in this season of scarcity.

"We know of no crop which stands drought so well. The crop was made this year in sixty-five days. We do not yet find any analysis of it, but practical facts tell us that all our animals are fond of it, and they thrive while eating it better than on any forage we give them. As we must look to selling hay in this region, if Hungarian grass does not sell it will do finely for home stock, and farmers can then sell their timothy. We cannot live here longer by cattle feeding and grain raising, which are monopolized by western competition. This Hungarian will prove a great help; it grows soon, and wheat follows it better than on oat stubble. Thick seeding makes fine hay, and as much of it by weight as the thin, coarse stuff. One of our farmers sowed twenty-one quarts per acre, but the grass was too coarse. I would not sow less than one bushel per acre."

William S. Bunting, Jr., near Darby, says the editor of the same valuable journal, has brought us in a sample of his Hungarian grass, sowed July 2d, and now being cut, August 2d. He has a fine crop of it, 2½ tons to the acre. The sample sent us is 65½ inches high. The proper time to cut it is when in full blossom. All kinds of stock appear fond of Hungarian grass hay; and either with or without a short crop of other hay, some of this should be sown every season, for a change of food. This promotes appetite. The more cows and young stock can be made to eat, the more profit will be returned to the farmer, if they are the right kind of stock.

—♦♦♦— [ORIGINAL.]
"NOTHING TO DO."

How often the words grate upon our ears, *nothing to do*—when there is so much to be done; so many sorrows to soothe, so much trouble a helping hand and a few kind words would alleviate; yet we pass by unnoticed at every turn of our daily life some sad suffering one, who treads the path of duty, and only their *God* knows of their struggles and sorrows. The gay devotee of fashion who sighs over the high wrought scenes of our modern novels, lamenting that she has *nothing to do*, grudgingly casts a pittance to the starving orphan, and passes coldly by on the other side, forgetting one might find an "Edna Earl" in the outcast's child, or that many a suffering sister has passed through as romantic and shifting scenes as ever originated in the active brain of the authoress of "East Lynn." Every one has duties; every one has talents, and and they will surely be required at the end. Do not forget the fate of the barren fig tree.

"Live for something, be not idle,
Look about thee for employ;
Lie not down in idle dreaming,
Labor is the sweetest joy;
Folded hands are ever weary,
Selfish hearts are never gay,
Life for thee has many duties,
Active be, then, while you may."
WICOMICO.

Roads in West Nottingham.

The new system of managing roads adopted by the Supervisors of West Nottingham, under special act of the Legislature last winter, by which the contract for mending and keeping them in repair for three years is sold to the lowest bidder, appears to be giving general satisfaction, and promises to work well. The roads were sold in April, and most of the contractors have finished their sections in an excellent manner. There is also a promise of great economy of public funds over the old system. The total estimate of cost by the Supervisors for the ensuing three years is about \$4,000, while for the past three years the expenses amounted to \$6 200. The tax-payers will appreciate this reduction, when they also have better roads in the bargain. The amount of road tax levied by the Supervisors on the township for this year is \$1,400.—*Oxford Press*.

Why could not our County Commissioners adopt some such plan? It is, at least, worth looking into, to ascertain what discretionary power the law grants them in the matter of putting out the roads to supervisors. If men undertake to keep a road in repair for a specified sum and time, they would be like to use economy in the work.—*Cecil Demo*.

OUR WELLS.—Pure water is one of the necessities of civilized existence, and just in proportion to the increase of population and the advance of civilization, does it become difficult to obtain it. On country farms it is easy to find pure bubbling springs on any hillside, but in cities and villages the difficulty of keeping wells and springs free from contamination is very great. Recent investigations by M. Lefort prove that in any soil, the distance of 100 metres from either burial-grounds or battle-fields is quite useless to protect the water of even deep wells from becoming contaminated with organic and other injurious matter. If, then, a distance of 100 metres (over 300 yards) is insufficient to prevent the infiltration of injurious matter into wells, what must we think of our city and village wells, which are frequently located within a dozen yards of barn-yards and cesspools? Of course, the character of the soil has much to do with the purity of the well; but, in many cases, much sickness would be avoided if all water used for domestic purposes were carefully filtered, or if cesspools were abolished, and resort had to the deodorizing agency of dry clay, as used in the earth closet.—*Hindicraft*.

WHAT GOOD ROADS DO.—"Good roads benefit every one residing along their course. Good roads save horse flesh, they facilitate the transportation of the produce to market, they save your temper, they increase the value of lands, they lend attractiveness to the eye of a stranger, they increase the business and traffic of a town by its vitality in all branches of trade."

Ladies Department.

A CHAT WITH THE LADIES FOR OCTOBER.

BY PATUXENT PLANTER.

"The breath of orchards, big with bending fruit,
Obedient to the breeze and beating ray,
From the deep-loaded bough, a mellow shower
Incessant melts away.

In olden times this was called "wine month," indicating it as the season of vintage. Wine, beer and cider, are made in large quantities this month, because the weather is peculiarly suitable, being neither too warm nor too cool. Wine-making is a fit and proper employment for the female portion of a household. The ladies of Charles county, Md., make a great deal of fine wine, for home-consumption from the currant, gooseberry, blackberry, wild grapes and improved cultivated grapes. Some years ago I tasted many specimens of their wine, and all were highly creditable to their skill and industry. Some were so fine and delicious as to steal the senses, and like the beauty of the manufacturers themselves, rendered the mind oblivious to a correct discrimination as to the merits of either. Their home made wines are, in truth, rich in flavor, delicate in bouquet and intoxicatingly delicious. It would help the cause of temperance, if my fair readers would follow the example of their sisters of Charles, in this pleasant work. Fruit drying and canning vegetables, should continue throughout this month, and such as have orchards, should secure an abundance of keeping apples for the winter, having them picked and stored according to the approved system of experienced orchardists, whose directions are to be met with in the *Maryland Farmer* and other Agricultural Journals and in the books on Fruit.

Flowers.—All tender plants and others intended to be kept over for winter blooming, or to be at rest, for the coming yearly bloom out of doors, should at once be taken up, trimmed and potted, ready to be placed in pit, conservatory or greenhouse, on the first strong symptoms of the appearance of Jack Frost, for he comes like a thief in the night.

October is the best month to make and pack your winter store of butter. If all the water be worked out of it, it needs but little salt to preserve it, so that in winter and spring it should hardly be distinguishable from the best early spring butter fresh from the churn, and indeed better, because free from all the taints of onions or new grasses that are imparted to the butter of early spring, and which is invariably—at that season on most farms of this region of country. I have had in my own family butter packed in May and kept in the ice-house all summer, and was delicious to eat the following May, thus preserved sweet for an entire year.

How comes on your Poultry? Have you good specimens king Fowls, Bronze Turkey, Bremen Goose, Rouen or of the Partridge, Cochins or Dark Brahma or game or Dorcas or Aylsbury Duck, Peacocks, common or white Fancy Pigeons, Bantam Chickens, Guinea Fowls, white and common, and White Turkeys for the lawn? If you have not, let me entreat you to procure some of all, or a few of one or the other species and breeds. You will find it both economical and conducive to your pleasure. The larger breeds of fowls are twice as economical as common breeds. They weigh three or four times as much, are more delicate and palatable for the table, lay more eggs, and as healthy and more manageable than the barn door fowls of our ancestors.

The Fancy fowls are really lovely ornaments to the lawn,

and are sources of profit if properly looked to and prepared in proper cages for sale. Like all such things they must be properly gotten up to bring good prices. The same fowl in a cramped dingy dirty coop, will bring perhaps 50 cents that in a neat, clean, handsome cage would bring \$10. The same uncombed dowdy beauty passing unnoticed, when-dressed by a modiste, and her hair dresser, with all the finish of a fashionable toilet, would be worshipped as a Goddess in the Ball Room or at the Opera. If so with our divinities, why should not it be so with animals or creatures of the lower order of creation? Let me advise you, ladies, to get the best specimens of the different breeds of poultry, and now and for two months to come is the best time to secure and take pains with them; and when you desire to sell, fix them up nicely and to the best advantage, and you will get prices, that will bring money into your purses and pay well for your trouble and expense, in giving them a nice pretty cage to go to market in.

The coming Agricultural Fair at Pimlico on 8th inst., offers a fine opportunity for seeing and selecting fine specimens of the different classes of improved poultry. Ladies wishing to purchase should attend the Fair and look for themselves, and not rely upon pictorial or pen descriptions of such fowls as they desire to stock their poultry yard with.

The *Plymouth Rock Fowls*, a distinct American Breed, are highly recommended and said to be very large. Hens weighing when full grown 7 to 10 lbs. They mature very early; at eight weeks old making a good size for broiling. As to the profits of Poultry Raising Mr. Hanly, of N. H., says: "I find a profit in raising poultry, though with me the turkeys prove the most so. For the last few years I have had for sale at Thanksgiving and Christmas about one hundred turkeys, and I don't know how many chickens. My sales of poultry amount to about \$500 a year.

This certainly is very encouraging and can easily be done by any of our thrifty housewives, who take an interest in these feathered sources of household money-making.

In reply to "Geranium" about her "pets," I now state all I know and "more," that I get from an amateur florist of Baltimore. Geraniums require a rich well drained soil, composed of rotted sods, wood's earth, light soil and dried and crushed cow manure. When the plants are set out, work the bed well until the plants get fairly growing, then mulch with hop refuse, or the coarse mould from the woods, and do not let the ground become too dry, but do not keep it too wet, only water when the leaves seem to droop, then water freely at night, once in three days until rain. I do not like the practice of sprinkling every evening for bedded plants. The true Gen'l. Grant is the finest geranium I ever saw. These, as well as other flowers, make the best show when planted in small beds, all of one color, hedged by some contrasting variegated leaved plants; or in the ribbon form with different colors or shades of color. No flower is more easily propagated from cuttings than the geranium. They keep in a pit or cold frame very well in winter. Every lady who loves flowers should have such books as Vick's catalogue, Beck on Flowers, Henderson's work on floriculture, and such practical manuals as will be a help in the cultivation of these beautiful "pets."

I am much indebted to my lady friends, "Geranium" and "Wicomico" for their entertaining letters. Who will next join in our chat? Our room is large, subjects many, and we want a crowd of ladies to have a big talk, but all must not talk at the same time.

The treasures of the deep are not so precious
As are the conceal'd Comforts of a man
Lock'd up in Woman's Love.